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ABSTRACT

Lying within the Cumberland Plateau of Appalachia, the Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) comprises eight rural Kentucky counties: Breathitt, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, and Wolfe. This report reviews regional history of economic development and examines socioeconomic indicators, including education, poverty, and the condition of children. Part 1 discusses settlement; early development patterns in agriculture and natural resource extraction; industrialization, 1861-1920 (expansion of coal mining and timber industries, population growth and change); and the Great Depression and beyond (declines in employment, increased outmigration, development schemes of the 1960s). Part 2 provides details for KRADD and for each county on population trends since 1970, population by age groups (including those over 65 and under 18), employment (overall and for major sectors), unemployment, labor force participation, wages and income, poverty rates, children in poverty, welfare recipients, high school graduates, and persons with associate degrees. The conclusion rates economic distress in KRADD census tracts; discusses the failure of KRADD's "growth center" development strategy to benefit outlying areas; and points out the challenges facing the region to counter historical forces that have led to outmigration, low-skill and low-wage jobs, high poverty rates, and low levels of education. Part 3 lists 64 community organizations serving KRADD. Appendices summarize population and income facts about Kentucky and KRADD counties, and provide data on the well-being of children in each county. (Contains 50 references and many data tables and figures. Of particular relevance to education are map 10: "persons without high school diploma by census tract, 1990", map 11: "persons with associate degrees by census tract" (p. 34-35). (SV)

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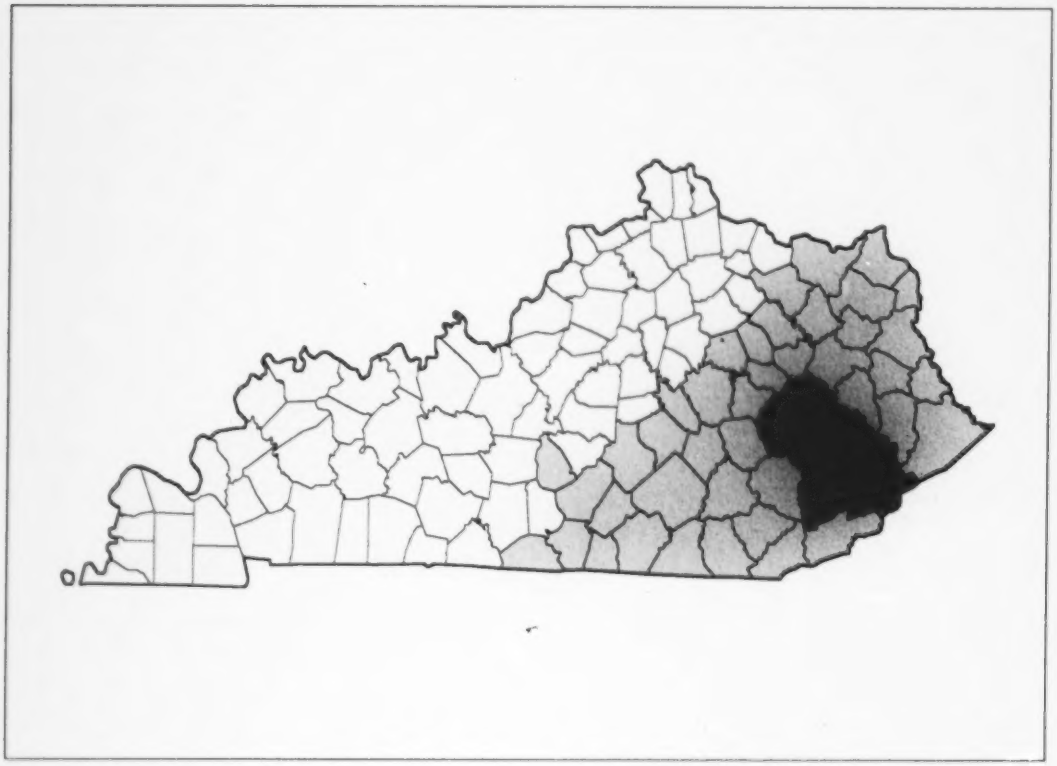
Kentucky River Area Development District

Historic Trends and Geographic Patterns



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February, 1996

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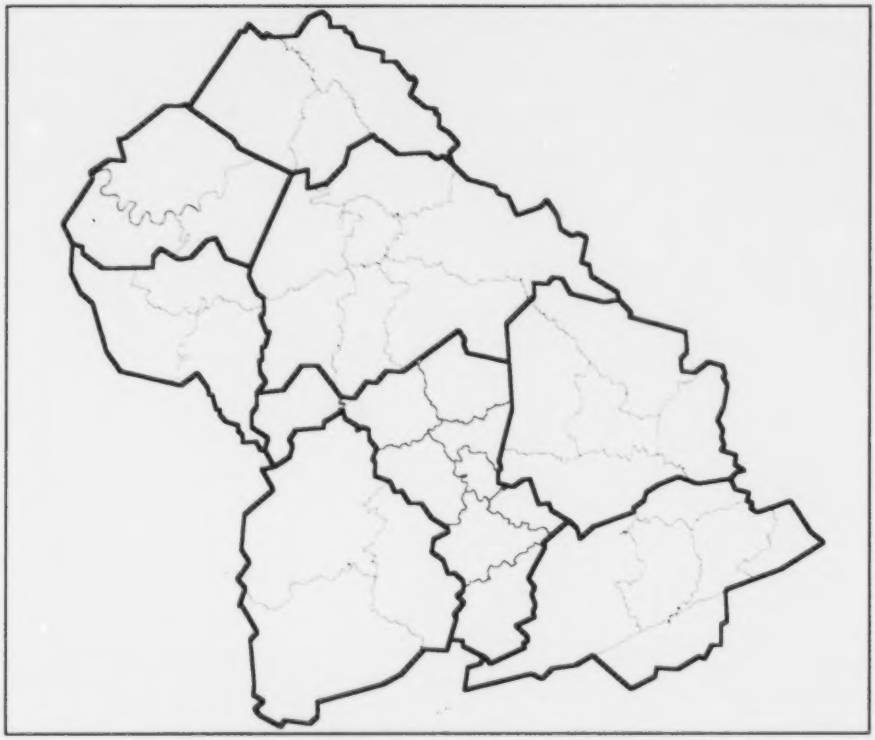

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Photo Captions and Credits:

PAGE 3: *Making Molasses near Greenbriar, Wolfe County, about 1925.* (Courtesy, Alice Lloyd College Photographic Archives.)
PAGE 9: *Workers show off a tree cut in Perry County in the 1920s.* (Courtesy, Alice Lloyd College Photographic Archives.)
PAGE 10: *Directors and friends inspect property of Elkhorn Mining Corp., Fleming, KY, May 15, 1914.* (Copied from photograph belonging to Jennie Darsie. Courtesy, UK Libraries Archives.)

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Part I

KRADD: A Distinct Region within the Cumberland Plateau

Introduction

Kentucky's Cumberland Plateau is a truly distinct region of the Commonwealth. It is part of a beautiful, but chronically impoverished region in the United States called Appalachia. It takes up about one-third of the Commonwealth's territory. Marked by mountainous terrain, a single-industry economy for most of its recent history, high rates of absentee land ownership, poor tax base, inadequate public services, low education levels, and weak civic infrastructure, the region has lagged behind the rest of the state in measures of economic growth. This distinct pattern of economic development set the Plateau off from the rest of Kentucky in the century after the Civil War. The area has suffered from neglect by the state and federal governments and by important parts of the private sector.

Since the administration of Gov. Bert T. Combs (1959-1963) and the passage of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, Eastern Kentucky has experienced considerable change. Improvements in the transportation system, beginning with construction of the Mountain Parkway in 1960, have created opportunities for industrial expansion and commercial development across the region. Health care became more accessible with the establishment of new hospitals and clinics. The quality of life has been enhanced and new opportunities for growth have been unlocked by advancements in communications and housing. The region's physical and environmental health has also been improved with the extensive construction of water, sewer, and other public service facilities. There also have been education reforms, but, until passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, the area lagged behind the rest of the Commonwealth in funding. Appalachian Kentucky still has a heavy educational deficit.

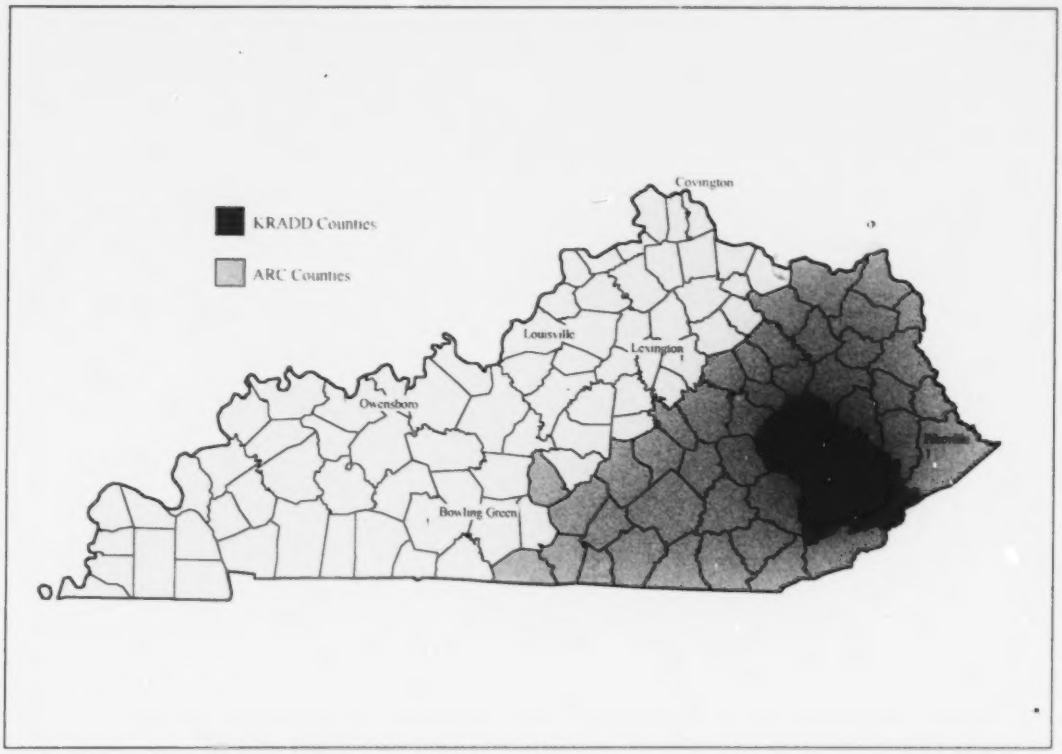
While significant progress has occurred by many measures, the Cumberland Plateau continues to reflect the effects of a century of exploiting the region's natural resources for short-term economic expansion and jobs creation without building the capacity of people to sustain long-term community life. Sustainability is crucial to analyzing the area's problems and potential. The problem is related to changes in land ownership and the types of jobs created, which typically have been low skill and low wage. It also is related to the limited attention paid to improving education. In addition, development of citizen participation and other forms of civic infrastructure has been spotty. The journey begun in 1960 to reverse the uneven cycles of "growth without development" is only half finished. As recent studies and journalistic accounts suggest, the reality is a mixture of successes and continued challenges.

Map 1 shows counties of the Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD). These counties reflect the consequences of uneven development within Eastern Kentucky over the last 30 years. There is still economic disparity among and within the counties. They tend to lag behind the state in various socioeconomic indicators. Much of the development pattern is related to growth center strategies that allocate resources in a single city with the hope that it will form a core that will spur regional growth. The most severely distressed communities are on the periphery of political and economic life and often are miles from larger regional growth centers. The decline of the region's single-commodity economy and the failure to diversify the economic base makes an already unstable, unsustainable economy more vulnerable to outside forces. These problems reflect some of the development issues that have troubled Eastern Kentucky for more than a century.

Early Development Patterns

By 1790, settlers of European descent occupied the alluvial lands of the Bluegrass region, and a stable society had begun to evolve. Bluegrass residents still referred to the Cumberland Plateau area as "the Wilderness." The threat of Indian reprisals and the desirability of Bluegrass land delayed settlement of Eastern Kentucky until the 1790s. Between 1790 and 1810 the first settlers began to pour into the area that would eventually form the eight counties of KRADD.

MAP 1: Location of KRADD Counties in Kentucky.



Settlers entered these counties from two directions. People who settled Owsley, Lee, and Wolfe counties came from the Bluegrass region, while others entered Letcher, Perry, and Knott counties from the east, including the Cumberland and Pound gaps. Traveling in groups, these pioneers came down the upper tributaries of the Kentucky River and stopped to settle in the first valleys that seemed suitable, looking always for fresh-water springs and salt licks. The first institutions pioneers usually established were a frontier station and the militia. These institutions enabled them to penetrate the wilderness, clear the land, and plant their crops while protecting themselves and their families.

During the early settlement period, hunting and gathering were commercially more important than agriculture. Generally, within the first year, the frontier family had harvested enough to meet its immediate needs. By the end of the second year, there was sufficient food to feed the additional livestock. A surplus sometimes remained at the end of the third year. When the harvests of field and forest exceeded the needs of the family, the farmer began to consider ways to turn the surplus into needed goods and services.

By 1850, a well-defined economic pattern was established. The KRADD area was developing a diverse economy based on agriculture and the emergence of small, locally owned firms. The evolution and patterns of these activities reveal complex economic change and diversity between 1800 and 1860, when surpluses from the productivity of these resources exceeded local communities' capabilities to absorb them. A pioneer economy was supplanted by burgeoning agricultural and commercial structures.

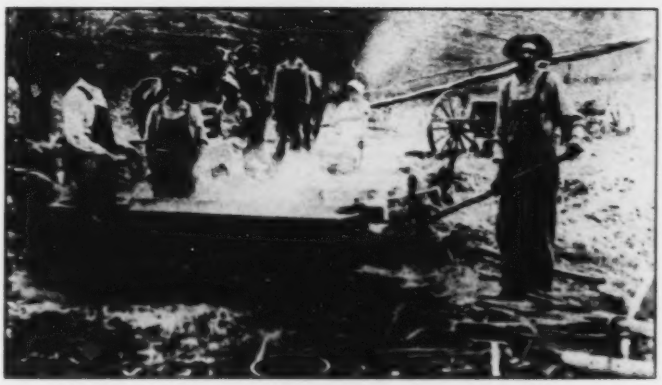
Farming and home manufacturing dominated the economy late into the nineteenth century. Products like butter, wool, flax, beeswax, honey, clothes, and shoes, which could not easily be bought in the remote areas, were produced by the household for its consumption.

Farms often exceeded 100 acres, but improved acreage seldom accounted for more than 20 percent of the farmland. Small acreages were dedicated to crop production, especially corn. There was greater emphasis on livestock, including swine and cattle. Cattle were driven to southern markets and to the Bluegrass region or to the Ohio Valley as early as the 1820s. The values for these agricultural products in the more rugged and less accessible areas, like Perry and Letcher counties, were distinctly lower than in areas like Lee and Wolfe counties, which had better transportation facilities and higher-quality farmland. Nevertheless, they represented the foundation of a local and regional economy that was integrated with, but not dependent upon, the emerging national economy.

Industry related to the processing of agricultural products and the extraction and processing of natural resources began to develop during this period. Exploitation of mineral resources was secondary to agriculture in the early 1800s, but iron ore, large forest reserves, and limestone formed a significant resource base for economic development. Employment in these early industrial efforts, however, was concentrated at a few specific sites. Salt in Perry County and coal, iron, and timber in Lee County were among the first to be developed. For nearly two decades, iron from Wolfe County was shipped to markets in Lexington and Frankfort, but transportation costs limited sales to these Kentucky markets.

Available markets in developing industries and the presence of streams influenced timber and coal development. Streams permitted coal extraction with minimal technology and expense by exposing nearly horizontal seams. They also provided the only economical means of transporting the resource to Bluegrass markets for many years. Coal was mined in the area during the early 1790s, but production was modest because markets were limited. Blacksmiths provided the only ready local coal market. Coal mined at water level near Beattyville in 1801 was shipped as far as ports on the Ohio River. Lexington's and Frankfort's demand for coal rose to 700 tons in 1805, and about half came from the Kentucky River Basin in Lee and Breathitt counties. By 1835, shipments to these markets increased to about 3,000 tons.

Timber was critical to the evolving iron industry because the sulfur content of local coal produced smelted iron of inferior quality. Wood was plentiful and more economical to cut and transport than coal. Although steady exploitation of Lee County's forests began between 1790 and 1800, the Kentucky River Valley generally retained its primeval forests through the end of the Civil War. When Bluegrass lumber operators and cabinetmakers had depleted huge black



walnuts, wild cherry, river bottom tulip, maple, buckeye, linden, and sycamores for homes and furniture in the 1830s, they sought out the rich woodland resources of the Kentucky River Valley. The industry began with millmasters in Frankfort buying a few rafts floated downriver by mountain men. After 1865 the business grew into a major industry.

Agriculture was the basis for other subsidiary industries. In some counties, agriculture-processing ventures contributed heavily to early manufacturing structures. During the 1840s, local manufacturing evolved to process the burgeoning products from increased agricultural yields. By 1850, these enterprises appeared in a fragmented pattern over the KRADD region. Gristmills were most common, operating at smaller, localized scales. Wolfe County had its first water mill near Hazel Green in 1810. Gristmills frequently operated in conjunction with wool-carding mills, sawmills, and tanyards.

Leather tanning had the highest value, and the making of boots, shoes, and saddles represented the most recognizable agricultural spin-off of the rural economy. Over the next 20 years, farm-related industries expanded to form geographic patterns that were more closely connected than the fragmented development of the 1850s. It was during this period that agricultural production surpassed subsistence levels and contributed to a more complex and diverse economic system than existed between the pioneer period and 1840.

The inadequate transportation system, which severely limited access to markets beyond the mountains, hindered further evolution of the region's economy. There were only four arterial roads in the mountains before 1861. Branches from these roads connected courthouses, local industrial works, and railroad stations. The state highway along the north fork of the Kentucky River between Irvine and Pound Gap was one of these four roads. By 1839, commerce in the vicinity of this road was carried on almost exclusively on the Kentucky River and its forks. Most mountain highways between 1830 and 1850 were merely old forest trails. Road traffic was practically limited to livestock from local farms on their way to eastern markets. Internal improvements to roads and the river generally stopped along the western margin of the Cumberland Plateau. Where road improvements did penetrate, the effect was so insignificant that they provided little relief to the landlocked district.

As the transportation network evolved, counties within KRADD developed differently. Before the 1830s in Letcher County, commerce was conducted by either pack horse or river packet. When the road system emerged, livestock was increasingly driven overland to markets in central Kentucky, the Carolinas, and Georgia. Lee County and Beattyville became a regional transportation center in the 1850s as the first railroads penetrated Eastern Kentucky.

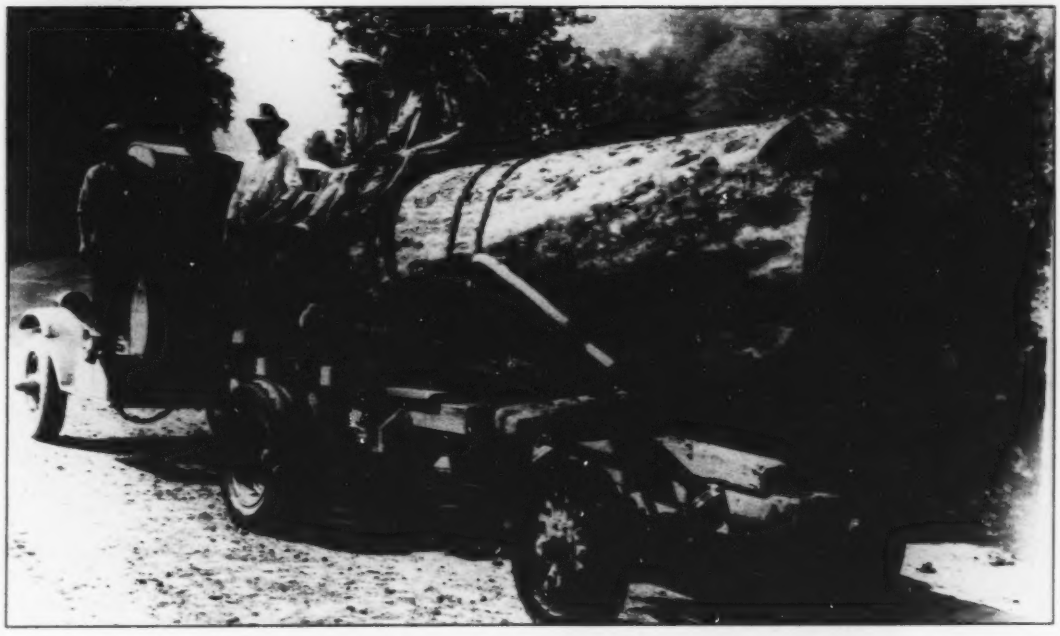
Kentucky River navigation improvements made the river navigable for flat boats past Beattyville and as far as Hazard. These developments generally made upriver producers more competitive, but there was still a gap between producers in the headwater region those downriver, who were closer to markets.

Industrialization, 1861-1920

The Civil War and its aftermath disrupted Eastern Kentucky's move toward a diversified, regionally interdependent economy. The war created deep-seated divisions within communities that erupted in violent conflicts afterward. These conflicts, called "feuds" by the national media, were often between families and competing political and economic interests that represented two contending economic cultures — one tradition-based and the other market-based. As a result of these divisions, the Cumberland Plateau's resources and communities became vulnerable to exploitation and development by commercial and industrial capitalists from outside the region.
Forces that were fundamentally restructuring American life during the first half of the nineteenth century had largely bypassed Eastern Kentucky. But the Civil War removed major obstacles to exploiting the region's vast store of natural resources.

Beginning in the 1880s, the United States started its final move toward urban-industrial maturity. As America modernized, the nation experienced the growth of cities and factories, the rise of corporate capitalism and the bureaucratic state, the evolution of a national and global market economy characterized by uneven economic and social development of regions and their residents, the concentration of political and economic power in the hands of a relative few, and the weakening of traditional values and patterns of traditional life. As productive capacities grew in the urban centers of the Northeast, South, and Midwest, capitalists began pursuing the human and natural resources of surrounding rural areas to undergird industrial expansion. Southeast Kentucky -- one of the most rural areas of eastern America and rich in wood and coal resources -- provided part of the vital fuel for this expansion.

Between 1870 and 1920, extensive harvesting of virgin forests and the expansion of coal extraction took place in the KRADD counties. These developments were accompanied by the widespread purchase of rights to natural resources by corporations from outside the region, by railroad construction, and by significant in-migration of new residents.



The felling of the great virgin forests led the way for the region's entrance into the industrial period. Beginning in the 1870s, representatives from eastern and northern corporations bought timber rights. A sustained logging boom accompanied these commercial speculations. For more than 40 years after 1870, mountaineers worked most of the year to produce logs for markets at Jackson, Beattyville, Frankfort, Louisville, and other downstream points.

The demand for lumber for home building, and then later for cross-ties, staves, and mining supports, stripped the area of its virgin timber within a few decades. Between 1900 and 1910, most of the commercial timber was removed along the streams in both Wolfe and Owsley counties. In Owsley County, much of the remaining timber had been cut by 1920, with little attention to sustainable logging practices or reforestation. Breathitt County lost most of its timber by the end of the 1920s. By 1930, most of the forests had been cleared from the hillsides within the KRADD counties.

The removal of timber in some areas, such as Leslie County, was slower because the railroads were late to penetrate these communities. Leslie County was comparatively more isolated. As late as 1922, there were no major highways or railroads, according to Ebb Herald. Ebb and his father quit logging in 1930 because:

> The logs got further from the river. One year when we bought a boundary of timber on Grassy Branch, which is now Toulouse [Kentucky], we had to haul our logs about four and a half miles on a wagon. We'd leave home before daylight, we'd get home after dark. So that was hard money and I guess that was one thing maybe enticed us [to quit logging]. My daddy got disabled, and just a single man with no education, why money looked hard to come by. To borrow money to finance something you was starting into then, you just couldn't do it. Nobody had it to loan (Shackleford and Weinberg, 1977:121).

Until the early 1900s, the Kentucky River and its tributaries were the primary avenues for commerce. The highway system was inadequate, and railroads had not been built. Before each spring tide, trees were cut, prepared, and placed in river beds. With the help of "splash" dams, the logs were sent traveling to downstream markets, accompanied by their harvesters. By 1910, railroads had replaced the river. It was prohibited to run loose timber in slack water, and the alternatives of transporting the logs by rafting or towing were too expensive.

Just as the area's forests were being depleted, the opening of coal fields began the next phase of industrialization. The Appalachian South had the nation's largest supply of bituminous coal, and at the height of industrial expansion, it was inevitable that these mountain reserves would be tapped. Economic conditions delayed commercial-scale coal mining, however. The Panic of 1893 drove coal prices down, and they sank to their lowest point in 20 years in early 1894. The Appalachian fields experienced unparalleled growth afterward because of the nationwide business recovery and the war with Spain. Coal production tripled by 1900. Within the next three decades, Appalachian coal came to account for almost 80 percent of national production.

reserves and the presence of the Kentucky River for transporting its valuable timber resources.

During this time, the eight counties experienced major changes in the makeup of their population. From about 1910 to 1920, there was a significant resettlement of residents and a substantial growth in population in the eight-county area as a result of in-migration. As the coal and steel companies built mining towns and the needs for labor and support personnel rapidly increased, labor agents of the industrialists and shipping lines recruited larger numbers of immigrants from the eastern and Mediterranean regions of Europe. In addition, many African-American migrants arrived "on transportation" from the deep South. The other part of the coal labor force came from

The coal boom was slower to arrive in Eastern Kentucky than in some other areas of Appalachia. But once it began, growth was phenomenal. The order and extent to which KRADD counties became industrialized were determined by the timing and degree that the railroad system developed. The extension of railroad branch lines into KRADD counties led to rapid growth in the coal fields. Lines reached Lee, Breathitt, and Wolfe counties between 1883 and 1901. Railroads reached into Perry, Letcher and parts of Knott counties between 1909 and 1912. Owsley County was essentially bypassed because of the absence of significant coal

the region's farming population. At first, most were sharecroppers and their families, but eventually many landowning farm families were attracted to "public work" in the mines and life in the coal camps. By 1930, the migration from farms to coal camps was so great in Breathitt County, agriculture ceased to be a significant commercial part of the local economy.

The Great Depression and Beyond

While most urban Americans were enjoying the post-World War I prosperity of the "Roaring Twenties," many Appalachians began experiencing the uncertainty of economic decline and the devastation of Great Depression

as early as the middle of the decade. And unlike Americans generally, Appalachians and Eastern They continued to struggle with the collapse of the new industrial age.

Long before the 1929 financial crash, the collapse of the new economic order in KRADD counties had begun. Of the three "sick industries" in the United States during the 1920s, two -- agriculture and bituminous coal -- were significant parts of the region's economy. (The third sick industry, textiles, was not important.) Logging, the area's third major economic sector, began to falter from rampant exploitation of forest reserves during the late 1910s. In the 1920s, Breathitt County had been cleared of most of its commercial timber, while Owsley County experienced the same fate by the 1930s.

As a result of overproduction during World War I and the reopening of European mines, the minerals industry declined severely between 1923 and 1927. Falling prices forced coal company after coal company to fold, and an ever-growing number of miners became unemployed. Wages were slashed in 1924 as mine owners attempted to compete and protect profits. Coal production began declining significantly in 1927. Operators abandoned the worst company towns and neglected the rest in the area. The hundreds of mountain families who found themselves without work returned to the land to eke out sustenance on abandoned hillsides or moved in with relatives. Many European and black miners left for jobs in the North, foreshadowing the first of several great out-migrations from the region.

The events between 1900 and 1930 marked the end of a relatively diversified economy in the eight-county area and the beginning of a coal-dominated economy. Unlike other areas of the nation that had experienced growth related to industrialization, coal development brought patterns of absentee landownership, degradation of the community's environment, poverty, labor force expansion at the expense of the local self-employed middle class, and single-industry company towns. These trends limited the diversification of the local economy and reduced the social benefits (education, health care, etc.) tied to other forms of development. The forests had been cleared, and agriculture ceased to be a major part of the economy, with less than one-

Kentuckians did not emerge from the Great Depression's ruinous effects after World War II. third of the area's population involved in full-time farming by 1930. KRADD had experienced, like much of central Appalachia, "growth without development," short-run expansion of jobs without long-run growth of social and economic capacity in communities to sustain that development.

As the Great Depression deepened, markets formerly demanding coal from the numerous operations in Eastern Kentucky counties shrank rapidly. To survive, coal operators took measures that increased in severity in proportion to their own desperation. They slashed prices below levels needed for survival, reduced the work force, neglected safety practices, and cut wages. By the time President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a National Bank Holiday in 1933, six banks of 15 had closed their doors in Perry, Breathitt, Letcher, Owsley, and Wolfe counties. The remaining nine were operating in Lee, Owsley, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Perry, and Wolfe counties. Like a series of mine explosions, the failure of coal corporations and banks swept away the economic structure. "Without orders and income the coal companies could not pay the banks. Without wages the miner could not buy merchandise. Without customers the stores could not pay the wholesalers or the banks from whom they had borrowed" (Caudill, 1963:173).

The immediate social consequences were many. During this time, federal assistance, designed as a temporary expedient, became a permanent feature of mountain life. The area's poverty was so severe and abject that up to 75 percent of the inhabitants could lay claim to federal assistance in one form or another in order to survive. Many of the region's children and families experienced malnourishment. Private relief agencies from across the country and even from England and Europe sent aid to desperate mountain families. Conflicts between miners and operators erupted over attempts to unionize the miners, and community cooperation and pride degenerated into distrust and bitterness.

World War II spurred a second coal boom. But the larger companies that survived the Depression increasingly used mining machines

to reduce manpower and produce increased tonnage. The outbreak of war in Europe in 1936 motivated operators and investors to revive neglected mines and start new ones. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the boom accelerated. Farmers, mountaineers, and one-time miners employed on WPA eagerly returned to mining. Eighteen months after the United States entered the war, the region was humming with industrial activity. In some respects, this second boom was more dynamic. Compared with their last peace-time year, "rail mines" boosted production nearly 500 percent during the war years, and locally owned truck mines mushroomed.

Following the war, Eastern Kentucky underwent significant economic readjustment. The farm sector continued to decline in its use of land and people. Natural gas, oil, and electricity began to displace coal as the main fuel for industry and homes. In the three years following 1945, coal still supplied the greater part of America's energy needs, and truck mines were the source for most of the industry's growth. But large national industries began to use natural gas and fuel oil. Railroads replaced steam with diesel-powered locomotives. Homeowners shifted to natural gas, oil, and electricity. This loss of customers to competing fuels, along with a recession in 1948, dealt a severe blow to the region's mines.

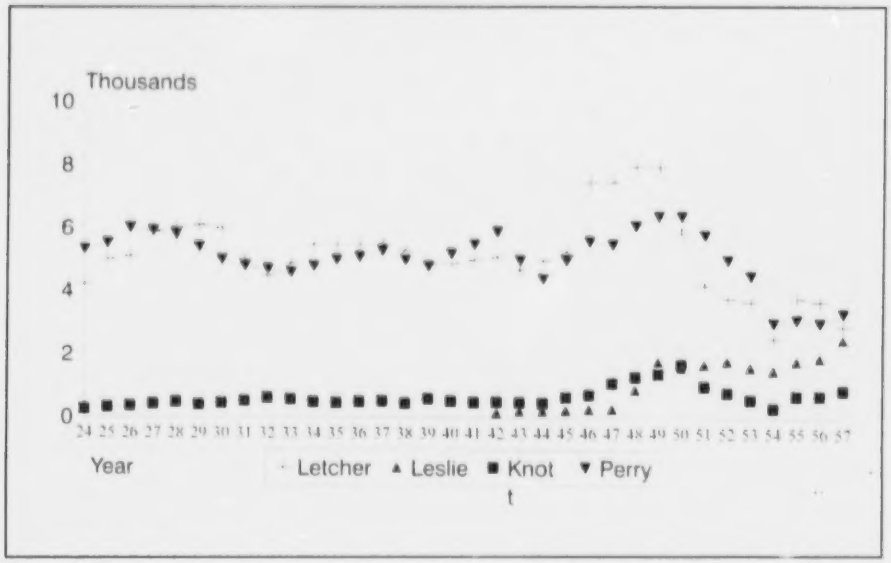
A relatively small but significant boom in logging accompanied coal's resurgence. The war boosted demand for lumber, and long dormant timber firms revived. Both huge absentee-owned companies and scores of lesser "saw-loggers" engaged in "clearing" to supply wood products for mines. By the time the truck-mine boom encountered its first recession in 1948, thousands of acres were all but cleared of vegetation.

Despite the war-time boom in timber and coal, employment in these industries never recovered to heights reached earlier in the century. Between 1940 and 1960, KRADD counties experienced population declines similar to much of Appalachia. Almost a third of the region's 2,078,928 people left during the 1940s, and even more left during the 1950s. In the eight KRADD counties, about 71,640 people, or 43 percent of the 1950 population, had departed by 1960. The rate of population loss differed within KRADD's counties. From 1940 to 1950, Leslie and Knott counties lost between 20 and 30 percent of their population, while Lee, Letcher, and Perry lost between 30 and 40 percent. Breathitt, Owsley and Wolfe lost more than 40 percent. From 1950 to 1960, out-migration accelerated. Knott, Lee, and Wolfe each lost 30 to 40 percent of their population, and Breathitt, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, and Perry counties lost more than 40 percent.

Out-migrants were both pulled and pushed from mountain communities. Opportunities for employment, better education, and health care for their families attracted many young migrants to other Kentucky cities, to other Appalachian states, and to cities in the Midwest. The lack of job opportunities in the KRADD region and neglected schools and public services pushed other residents to leave. The continued decline of agricultural employment, mechanization of deep mines, the introduction of surface mining, and the reduction of smaller truck-mining operations contributed to this job displacement. After 1948, mergers of coal companies and the mechanization of coal production reduced the labor necessary to produce coal. Charts 1 and 2 show trends for coal-mining employment and coal production in Knott, Leslie, Letcher, and Perry counties between 1924 and 1957.

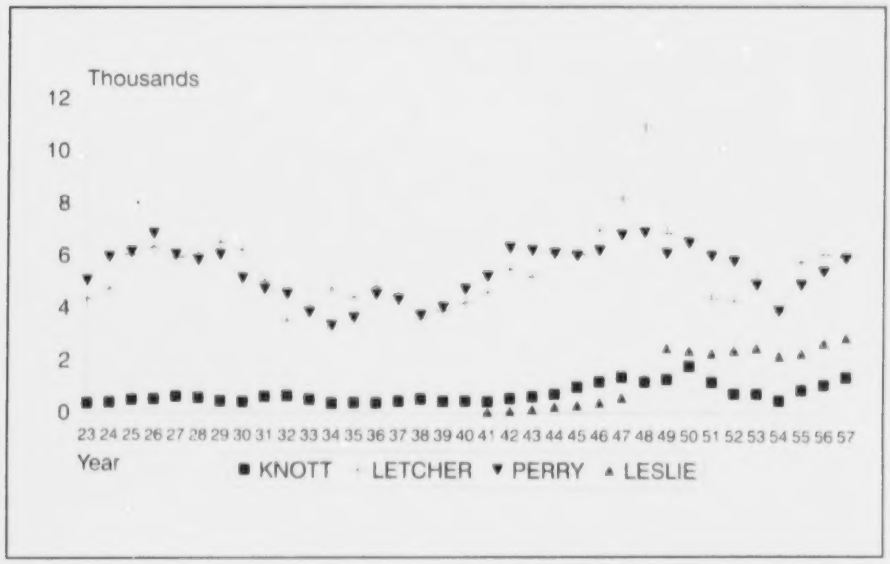
In the absence of a broad-based, diversified economy, conditions of the Great Depression, temporarily relieved during the 1940s, continued unabated. Surplus labor could not be absorbed by the single-industry economy, and those left behind in the wake of the Great Migration were experiencing a standard of living far below the state average. The great majority of families in Letcher and Perry counties were living on incomes between less than $1,000 and $4,000 while family incomes in Knott, Leslie, and Lee, counties were between less than $1,000 and $3,000, and those in Breathitt, Owsley, Wolfe were between less than $1,000 and $2,000. Distribution of per-capita income in 1958, which reflects the economic base of the area, reveals a significant gap between two groups of counties. Per-capita income was $985 in Perry County, $908 in Letcher, and $904 in Leslie, which shows the influence of coal development. Meanwhile, Lee's per-capita income was $691, Breathitt's, $571, Wolfe's, $473, Owsley's, $462, and Knott's, $442. The highest per-capita income fell far short of the state average of $1,450.

CHART 1: KRADD Counties' Mining Employment per Active Day.



SOURCE: Bowman and Haynes, 1963

CHART 2: KRADD Counties' Coal Output, 1923-1957.



SOURCE: Bowman and Haynes, 1963

Sources of personal income also reflected the area's economic health. For KRADD counties in 1958, most people had income from either wages and salaries or transfer payments. For wages, the counties fell into three groups: For Leslie, Perry, and Letcher counties, 69 to 75 percent of personal income came from wages; for Breathitt, Lee, and Knott, it was 56 to 59 percent; for Owsley and Wolfe, it was between 34 and 36 percent. The counties fell into two groups for transfer payments: For Letcher, Perry, and Leslie counties, 15 to 16 percent of personal income came from transfer payments. For Lee, Breathitt, Wolfe, Owsley, and Knott, it was 20 to 27 percent. Leslie, Perry, and Letcher counties surpassed the state percentage of 65 percent for wages and salaries. All KRADD counties surpassed the state average of 9 percent of personal income from transfer payments.

During the late 1950s, this chronic depression became a major concern among leaders of Eastern Kentucky. The devastating 1957 floods in most of the region's river basins spurred creation of the Eastern Kentucky Regional Planning Commission by acting Gov. Harry Lee Waterfield. This commission was formed to address the Cumberland Plateau's chronic problems of a weak economy, substandard education, inadequate roads and public services, and a meager per-capita income. In 1959 the nine-member commission adopted Executive Director John Whisman's "Program 60," a 10-year strategic plan to diversify Eastern Kentucky's economy via of industry, tourism, forestry, and agriculture. The plan also called for improvements in education and public services, as well as road construction. At this point, government and citizens turned from a piecemeal approach to development to attempt a coordinated, comprehensively planned approach.

In 1959, Gov. Bert T. Combs adopted "Program 60" as his administration's policy objectives for Eastern Kentucky. During his term, state investment in the region significantly increased in the areas of community colleges, state parks, highways, and education. Until the 1940s, the highway network in the KRADD counties consisted of horse and foot paths, stream beds, and unimproved roads. With the proliferation of truck-mines during World War II, there was a flurry of construction of two-lane gravel and paved roads. In the 1950s, no part of Eastern Kentucky had a major east-west highway. The Combs Administration completed the Mountain Parkway in 1963, and acquired federal funds to construct KY 15 from Jackson to Hazard as part of the Appalachian Development Highway System. Construction of I-64, I-75, and the Daniel Boone Parkway, and the modernization of KY 80 (Hazard to Prestonsburg) and U.S. 23 would open KRADD and Eastern Kentucky for both intra- and inter-state commerce.

Although Combs committed significant amounts of state resources to benefit the Appalachian region, the developmental nature of "Program 60" required help from the federal government which was not directly available to the state. Combs and Whisman pursued a strategy that led to the creation of the Appalachian Regional Commission, which made available federal funds to invest in infrastructure in Eastern Kentucky and 12 other Appalachian states.

A section of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 provided financial incentives for states to form Local Development Districts (LDD). These LDDs were to provide planning and technical assistance to counties, municipalities, and community citizens' groups in formulating and implementing comprehensive development programs. They were also to facilitate access to federal financial resources for proposed projects of governmental and community organizations.

Some states with Appalachian regions had been supporting versions of LDDs as early as the late 1950s. Kentucky began organizing Area Development Councils in 1961. A result of that effort was the formation of the Upper Kentucky River and the Middle Kentucky River Development Area councils, later combined to form the Kentucky River Area Development District in 1968.

During this period, the KRADD economy advanced relative to total personal and per-capita incomes. Between 1962 and 1969, incomes in both categories increased by about 36 percent. Per-capita income rose from $886 in 1962 to $1,377 in 1969, and total personal income climbed to $165 million in 1969 from a 1962 level of $106.4 million.

Part II

KRADD: Modern Socioeconomic Indicators

Introduction

There can be no doubt that historic trends that have affected KRADD's counties still have a significant impact today. For example, Breathitt, Knott, Owsley, and Wolfe counties are among the 10 poorest Kentucky counties, and also rank among the poorest in the United States, according to the 1990 Census. Lee County is in the bottom 20. This situation has not changed since the 1960s, and probably dates back to the 1920s or 1930s.

There also appear to be continuing differences in development patterns within KRADD, with Wolfe, Lee, Owsley -- and, to some extent, Breathitt -- counties showing noticeable variations in socioeconomic characteristics when compared with Knott, Leslie, Letcher, and Perry counties. These differences certainly are related to topography, location in relationship to physical infrastructure, such as roads, and the nature and extent of coal development, among other factors.

Part II of this report examines demographics, employment, labor force characteristics, wages and income, poverty, and education in the eight KRADD counties. In analyzing differences among these counties, it is important not to rely on any one measure to draw conclusions. But it is important to understand the effects of a variety of measures. As part of our analysis, we develop an overall index of measures to give a rough estimate of economic distress for KRADD's census tracts. We briefly analyze charts and maps using information from a variety of sources, especially the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the 1990 U.S. Census. BEA figures generally form the basis for charts that show trends between 1969 and 1993.

Bureau of the Census figures form the basis for maps that show both county boundaries and census tracts within each county. While census tracts may or may not define a "community," they allow for more precise mapping of socioeconomic information in areas smaller than the county level. The knowledge gained through the mapping allows citizens and planners to gain a deeper understanding of local areas and conditions.

What Is a Census Tract?

Census tracts are officially designated areas, generally with a population of 3,000 to 4,000 persons.

* * * *

Appendix A contains a compendium of BEA "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD counties.

Demographics

Population Changes

Population in the KRADD counties has risen and fallen over time, as shown in Table 1. Census data suggest that the area, after gaining population during the 1970s, revisited the old problem of out-migration during the 1980s. It appears there has been some recovery in the 1990s. The out-migration that began around World War II and continued into the 1960s placed severe strains on the area's counties and weakened the whole Commonwealth.

During the 1980s, it appears the weakened local economy and lack of job opportunities triggered another out-migration. Judging from past experience, it seems likely the area suffered another loss of potential human talent as individuals moved elsewhere in search of employment. This is significant, because continued out-migration heralds a loss of community vitality and endangers sustainability. Over a long enough time, the loss of talented individuals often is associated with

TABLE 1: KRADD Population, 1970-1990, with Estimate for 2020.

State/ County	(000) 1970	(000) 1980	Change 70-80 (%)	(000) 1990	Change 80-90 (%)	(000) 1995	Change 90-95 (%)	(000) 2020 est.
Kentucky	3230.6	3660.8	13.3	3686.9	0.7	3867.5	4.8	4530.8
Breathitt	14.3	17.0	18.9	15.7	- 7.6	15.4	- 1.9	15.9
Knott	14.8	17.9	20.9	17.9	0.0	18.6	3.9	23.0
Lee	6.6	7.8	18.2	7.4	- 5.1	7.8	5.4	8.7
Leslie	11.7	14.9	27.4	13.6	- 8.7	14.0	2.9	16.8
Letcher	23.4	30.7	31.2	27.0	-12.1	27.3	1.1	30.9
Owsley	5.1	5.7	11.8	5.0	-12.3	5.4	8.0	6.0
Perry	26.4	33.8	28.0	30.3	-10.4	31.4	3.6	34.0
Wolfe	5.7	6.7	17.5	6.5	- 3.0	7.2	10.8	9.5
KRADD	108.0	134.5	24.5	123.4	- 9.7	127.1	3.0	144.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Kentucky State Data Center; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

a decline in organizations that help bind communities together. Each wave of out-migration may make it more difficult for communities to develop the capacity to confront problems as civic organizations and economic strength are eroded.

As Table 1 also suggests, out-migration was staunched again in the early 1990s. It is uncertain, however, whether this trend will continue. The history of population instability, alongside persistent economic limitations, tends to make predictions of future trends negative. The University of Louisville estimates for population in KRADD counties for 2020 suggests the likelihood of slow growth. But growth depends on building a sustainable community based on social infrastructure and the economy. If nothing else, the area's citizens face a tough challenge.

Population by Age Groups

Table 2 presents the relationship of population and age groups in the 1990 Census. There is some variation in median age, which gives a quick indication of the counties with the oldest population. The difference between the northern and southern counties is somewhat apparent; Owsley, Lee, and Wolfe counties have the highest percentage over age 65. Letcher County also is on the high end. Leslie County has the lowest percentage over age 65. Leslie County also has the highest percentage of children under age 18. Interestingly enough, Wolfe County, with its aging population, also has a fairly high percentage of residents under 18. Owsley County, with the highest percentage of residents over age 65, also has the lowest percentage of residents under 18.

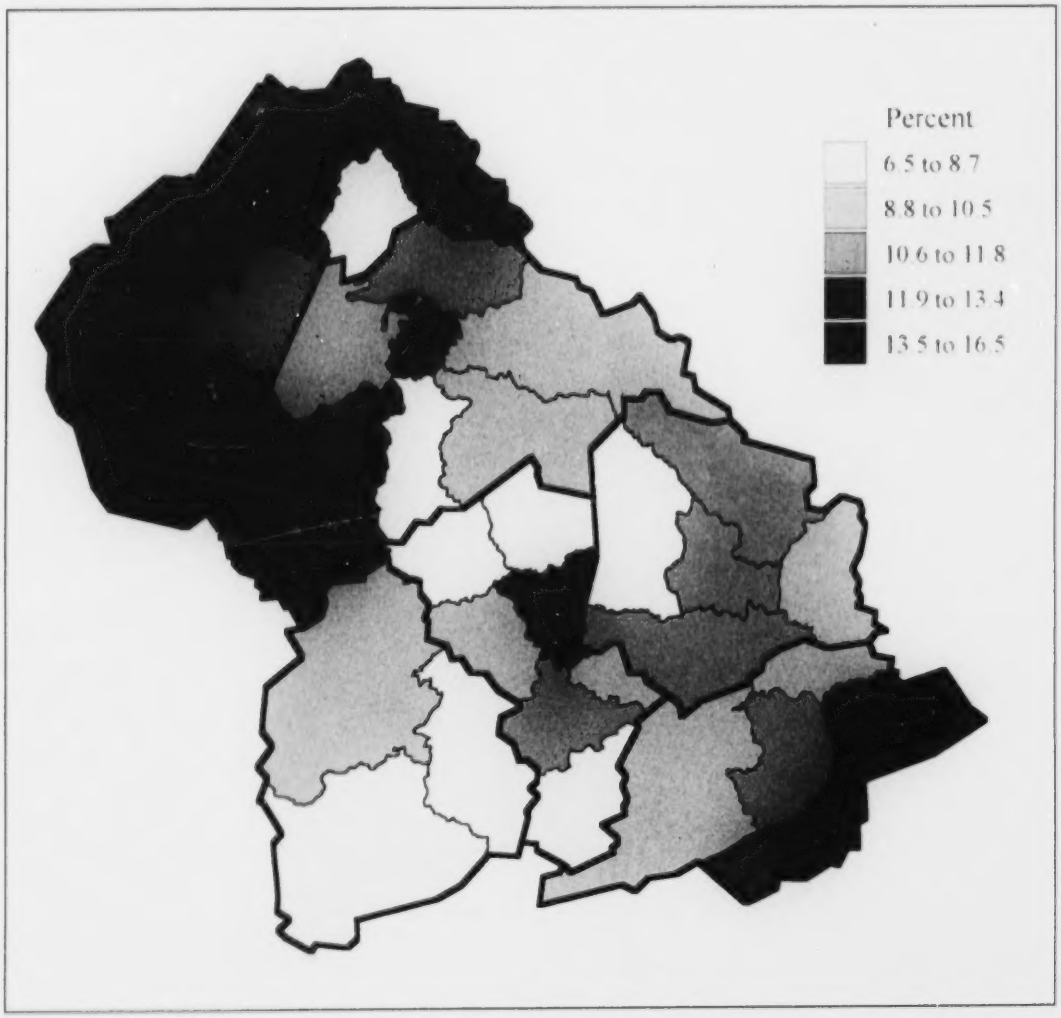
TABLE 2: KRADD Population Divided into Age Groups, 1990.

Counties	Under 18 (%)	18-64 (%)	Over 65 (%)	Media Age
Breathitt	28.7	60.5	10.8	31.
Knott	29.1	60.3	10.6	30.
Lee	28.4	58.1	14.9	33.
Leslie	30.1	60.3	09.6	30.
Letcher	28.9	59.6	11.9	32.
Owsley	26.0	58.0	16.0	34.
Perry	28.4	61.1	10.6	31.
Wolfe	29.2	60.0	12.3	32.

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Map 2 augments this portrait, showing the percentage of people over age 65 in census tracts. Note the band of census tracts in the northwestern area with relatively high percentages of elderly persons, but relatively low populations. Although it is by no means clear cut, it also appears that the poorer northern census tracts tend to have higher concentrations of elderly residents, compared with the southern census tracts. Because most of the area's economic activity is centered in Hazard, it seems likely that a fairly large number of elderly residents have trouble gaining access to goods and services. The relatively higher proportion of elderly residents is one sign of the less-vibrant economy of the northern KRADD counties. The patterns of out-migration also suggest that working-age people have tended to migrate to growth centers, contributing to a further decline of the rural areas.

MAP 2: Persons over Age 65 by Census Tract.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

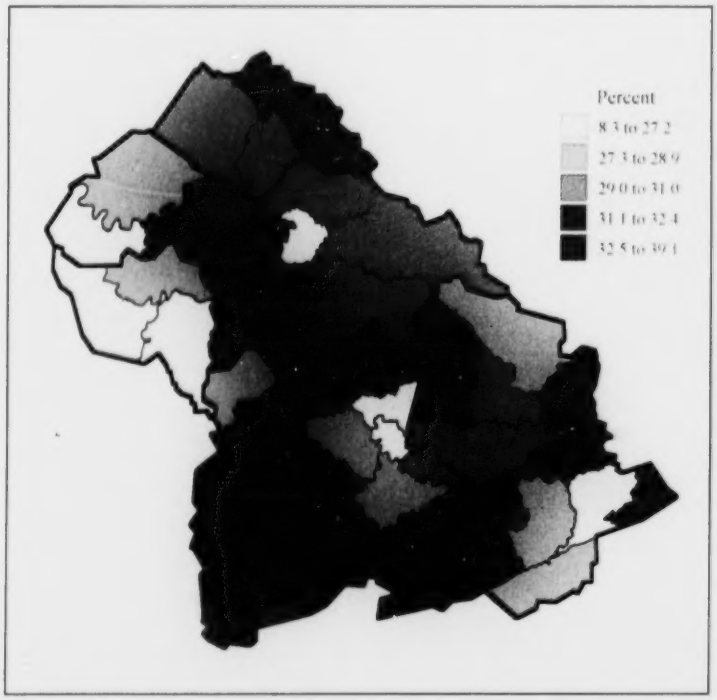
The distinction between the north and south of KRADD counties appears again in at Table 3, the population under age 18 in 1990 and 1992. Most counties lost population in this age bracket between 1990 and 1992, with the exception of three of the poorest, Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe. If there were adequate job opportunities in these three counties, such growth would be welcome. But if there are not enough jobs to go around, an increasing youth population signals potential gains in unemployment, pressures on social-service agencies, and the likelihood of more out-migration.

TABLE 3: Population under Age 18, 1990-1992.

KRADD/County	1990	1992	% Change
KRADD	35,531	34,894	-1.8
Breathitt	4,500	4,209	-6.5
Knott	5,248	5,245	-0.1
Lee	2,059	2,072	0.6
Leslie	4,136	4,044	-2.2
Letcher	7,755	7,568	-2.4
Owsley	1,336	1,347	0.8
Perry	8,620	8,515	-1.2
Wolfe	1,877	1,894	0.9

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

MAP 3: Persons Aged 18 or under by Census Tract.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Map 3 shows population distribution of those under age 18 within census tracts. The percentage gap in each category tends to be narrow, so population is relatively evenly distributed. Even so, the distribution reinforces what we said about persons over age 65. There is a tendency for tracts with higher percentages of elderly to have lower percentages of youth under 18. Census tracts with county seats tend to have lower percentages of youth under 18 youth. As we will see , there is a high percentage of poverty among youth. It appears that poverty among youth is heaviest outside or more densely populated areas.

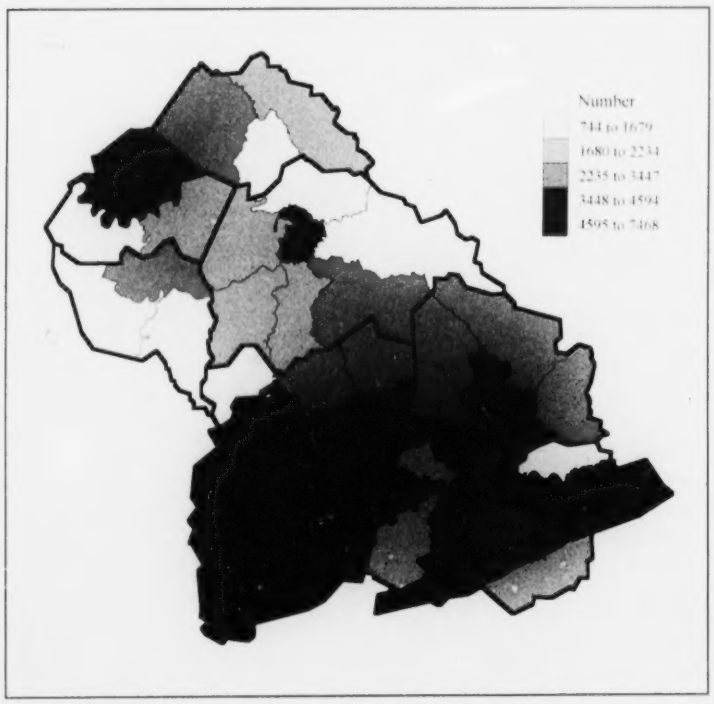
Geography of Population Distribution

The uneven population distribution within KRADD counties and census tracts may indicate uneven economic opportunities, as shown in Map 4. According to the 1990 Census, the southern counties and their census tracts tend to be the most heavily populated, with Hazard and Perry County as the "growth center" or "growth pole," as it sometimes called. This suggests economic opportunity may be more concentrated here, giving residents higher incomes than in surrounding counties. This also may result in demands on economic and physical infrastructure (businesses and roads), as well as on many types of civic infrastructure (clubs and nonprofit organizations). Residents of northern counties often have to leave their communities in order to work or to obtain goods and services. These residents, who often have low income, usually have to pay extra costs of transportation in order to work and obtain necessities outside of their own communities.

What is a 'Growth Center?'

In the past, government officials and planners have focused on Perry County for economic development with the hope that private businesses will follow suit not only in the county, but, to some extent, in the rest of the area. Federal and state officials consider the county to be a kind of "jobs magnet" (called a growth center or growth pole) with a critical economic mass to attract firms to provide jobs for workers from surrounding counties. In addition, growth centers were meant to bring urban services closer to rural populations. Because of this, Perry County's health is crucial to the health of the rest of KRADD. The idea of growth centers emerged in Europe soon after World War II, and U.S. planners adopted the idea around 1960.

MAP 4: Population by Census Tract.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Employment

Table 4 gives a sense of dominant industries for each county based on the number of workers covered by unemployment insurance in 1993. Perry County has the most diversified economy, and by far the most workers. There are four dominant sectors: wholesale/retail trade, services, state and local government, and mining. Transportation is fairly well represented. As might be expected of a growth center, there is a noticeable number of workers in finance. Contract construction and manufacturing are relatively weak sectors. Letcher County has the next highest number of workers, and the economy is, in many ways, similar to Perry County, with the same four dominant industries. Interestingly enough, Letcher County has a slightly greater proportion of its workers in finance and transportation. Weak spots include contract construction and manufacturing.

Breathitt County also is somewhat diversified, with four dominant industries: mining, wholesale/retail trade, services, and state and local government. There are a number of transportation and finance workers, but manufacturing and contract construction employment is virtually nonexistent. Leslie County is perhaps the most reliant on mining;

Some Background

One major historic weakness of rural counties generally and Appalachian counties in particular has been a weak economy dominated by a single industry. Many Appalachian counties have been over-dependent on coal and other natural-resource-based industries. These industries are cyclical—subject to broad fluctuations in employment because of swings in the economy. While much of the coal industry has been noted for paying relatively good wages, other natural-resources industries do not pay nearly as well. Moreover, employment in virtually all areas of natural-resources extraction has declined for several decades because of mechanization and the development of synthetic alternative products. Eastern Kentucky also lacks industry to processes natural resources and adds value to them. Kentucky has a history of being a primary producer, which requires less-skilled labor; Eastern Kentucky has attracted little manufacturing. Over the years, the economic structure of KRADD's counties has changed constantly with the ebb and flow of the extractive industries.

TABLE 4: Employment by Place of Work, KRADD Counties, 1993.

County	Breathitt	Knott	Lee	Leslie	Letcher	Owsley	Perry	Wolfe
All Industries	3765	2903	1468	3273	5806	530	10642	1147
Mining & Quarrying	820	972	117	1302	1083	N/A	1925	N/A
Contract Construction	26	58	21	26	97	N/A	147	21
Manufacturing	24	13	199	N/A[a]	47	0	126	282
Trans., Commun., Pub. Util.	156	251	36	107	448	N/A	672	52
Wholesale/Retail Trade	857	339	274	305	1347	63	2990	196
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	128	63	52	44	256	16	279	17
Services	905	438	362	525	1265	119	2248	215
State/Local Govt.	847	766	403	700	1237	292	2220	362

[a] Figures might not be disclosed in order to meet confidentiality requirements that protect individual firms.

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet For Economic Development; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

services and government also are important. Wholesale and retail trade also are significant. Transportation is of lesser importance, and there are few workers employed in finance and contract construction. Knott County also relies on mining, with a large number of government workers. Service employment, wholesale/retail trade, and transportation are significant. There are relatively few jobs in contract construction, manufacturing, and finance.

Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe counties are similar to each other, with considerable dependence on services and state and local government. Wholesale/retail trade is important in Wolfe and Lee counties. Wolfe had a strong contract construction sector, while Lee has a fairly strong manufacturing sector. Owsley County, with the smallest population, also has the least diversified economy. All three counties are extremely weak in terms of employment in finance; Lee and Owsley are extremely weak in terms of contract construction.

During 1994 and 1995, several new businesses opened in the KRADD counties. Two manufacturing firms in Perry County added about 300 jobs, including a major manufacturer of roofing joists. The psychiatric hospital in Perry County employed about 200 workers. An outdoor-furniture manufacturer in Owsley County employed eight. An electronics firm in Wolfe County employed 155, and another firm planned to add 55 jobs through expansion. There also were plans for a new firm to manufacture steel framing for furniture, with an additional 110 workers. Countering these developments, however, was the loss of over 400 mining jobs in 1994.

Business Establishments

Table 5 outlines business establishments in KRADD counties as of 1991. Perry County dominates with 597 establishments, a reflection of its role as growth center. Letcher County is second with 434, and there is a major gap compared with Knott (252 firms) and Breathitt (227 firms) counties. Leslie (124) and Lee (108) were next, with Wolfe (78) and Owsley (46), having the fewest firms. Note how few firms are involved in agriculture services, forestry, and fishery. The same is true of manufacturing, and it appears most of these firms were fairly small. There is considerable variability in the number of coal firms and their average employment. Leslie County has by far the largest number of employees per firm and the lowest number of mining

TABLE 5: Number of Business Establishments, KRADD Counties, 1991.

County	Breathitt	Knott	Lee	Leslie	Letcher	Owsley	Perry	Wolfe
Total Establishments	227	252	108	124	434	46	597	78
Ag. Serv., For., Fish	1	2	1	1	0	1	3	0
Mining	12	30	7	3	37	1	32	2
Contract Construction	9	9	9	8	21	2	34	4
Manufacturing	5	4	4	8	11	1	13	7
Trans., Other Pub. Util.	38	53	7	17	88	3	59	13
Wholesale Trade	7	16	9	2	22	2	44	6
Retail Trade	76	82	40	47	111	20	192	28
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	11	6	9	5	23	3	34	2
Services	68	47	19	32	114	13	177	16

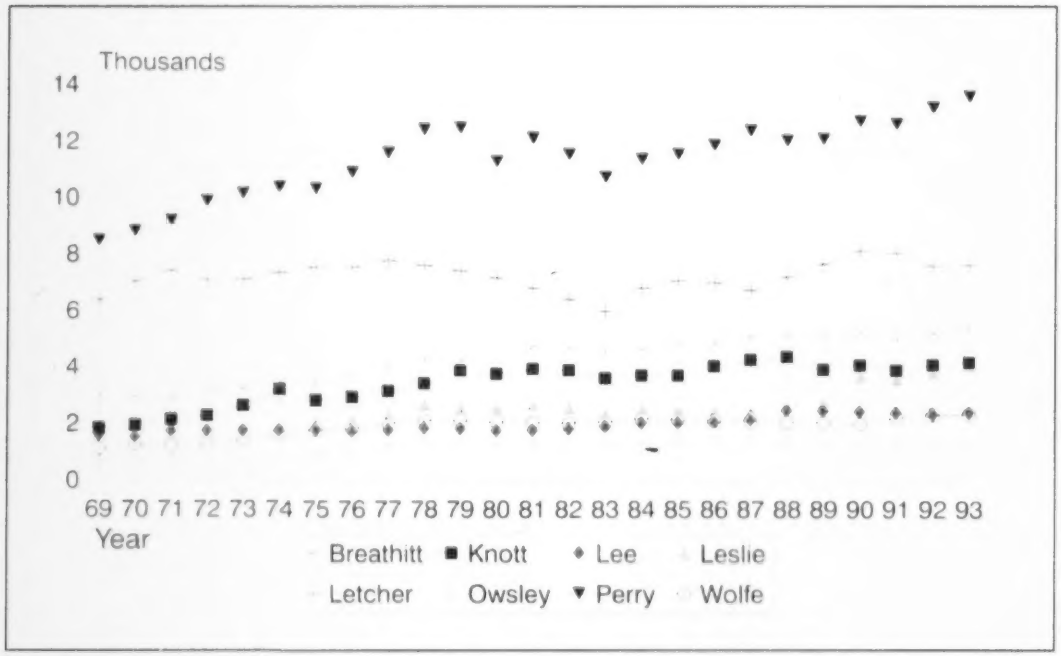
SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet For Economic Development;
Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

companies. Overall, the largest number of business firms tends to be in retail trade; Owsley and Wolfe counties have the smallest numbers. The next largest group tends to be services, with the least number of these firms in Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe counties. Transportation tends to be fairly well represented; most firms are concentrated in the southern KRADD counties.

Total Employment

From all indications, total employment appears to have been relatively stable in most of the KRADD counties from 1969 to 1993, according to Chart 3. But closer scrutiny reveals considerable inequity in the distribution of that employment. Perry County has shown considerable growth, despite some instability related to changes in the coal sector. Meanwhile Breathitt, Leslie, and Knott counties also have shown small gains. Letcher County has been somewhat unstable, and the number of employed workers appears to have increased slightly. Lee, Wolfe, and Owsley counties have been relatively stagnant, with limited growth. Chart 3, and those that follow in this subsection, indicate how Perry County—with Hazard as its county seat—has been KRADD's growth center. While the other KRADD counties have shown some job growth, most jobs have been created in Perry County.

CHART 3: Total Employment in KRADD Counties, 1969-1993.



SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

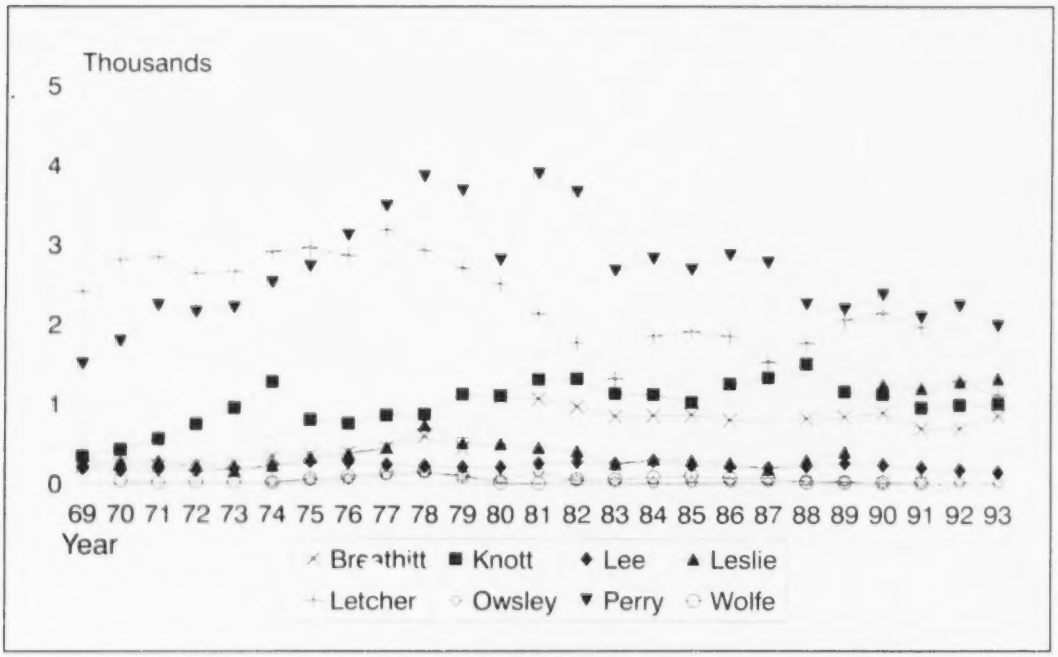
Mining Employment

The number of employed miners illustrated in Chart 4 reflects the long-run problem of the coal fields of Kentucky—boom-and-bust cycles. Although during the 1990s, employment levels in most counties—with the exception of Lee, Leslie, Owsley, and Wolfe—were above what they were in 1969, the levels have fluctuated considerably over the years. This has helped to create severe problems for the local and state economies. Generally, employment peaked in the late 1970s; the number of workers employed has been on a fairly steady decline since the early 1980s, with the exception of Leslie County.

Some Background

Coal mining has played a central role in the development of most of KRADD's counties. It is a significant factor in differences between the northern and southern counties. Because of the dominance of the coal industry in the first half of this century, other forms of economic development that would have led to a more diversified economy in the area were limited. Poor roads also hampered diversification. The influence of the coal industry has been slowly waning since World War II because of changes in global markets. Miners have felt the effects of these changes as firms have mechanized in order to reduce labor costs. In Eastern Kentucky, there has been a painfully gradual diversification of the economy that has been hampered by widespread poverty among unemployed miners and out-migration in search of employment opportunities.

CHART 4: KRADD Mining Employment, 1969-1993.

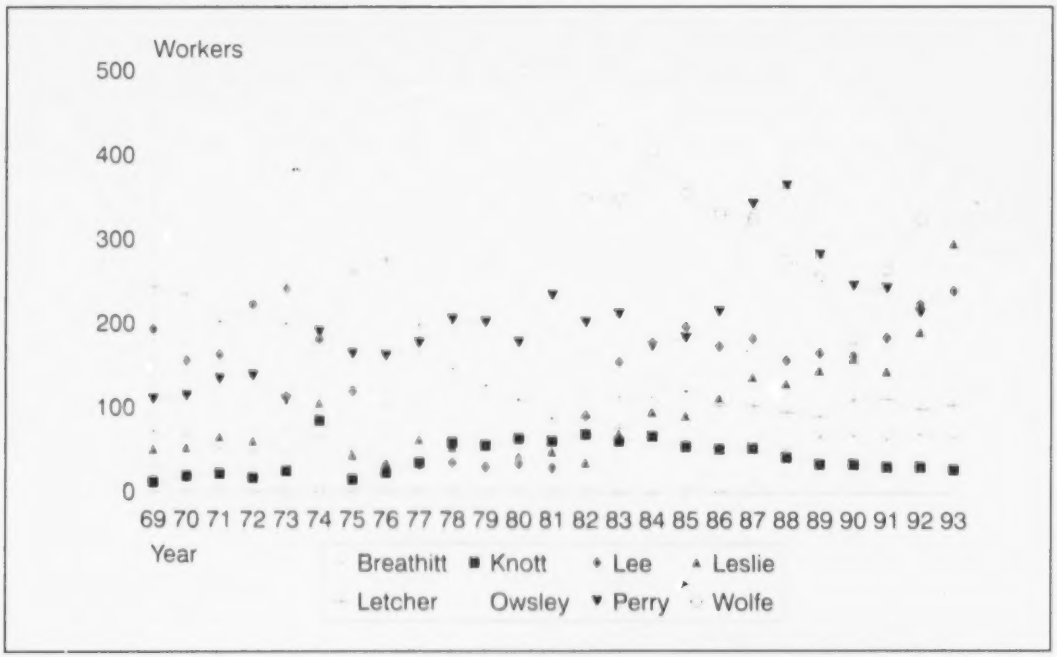


SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Manufacturing Employment

As Chart 5 suggests, there can be no question about both the relatively low number of manufacturing jobs and the instability of manufacturing employment in KRADD counties. Manufacturing jobs were virtually nonexistent in Owsley and Wolfe counties until the 1980s. While Perry County did show growth from 1969 to 1993, it suffered a fairly big decline after

CHART 5: KRADD Manufacturing Employment, 1969-1993.



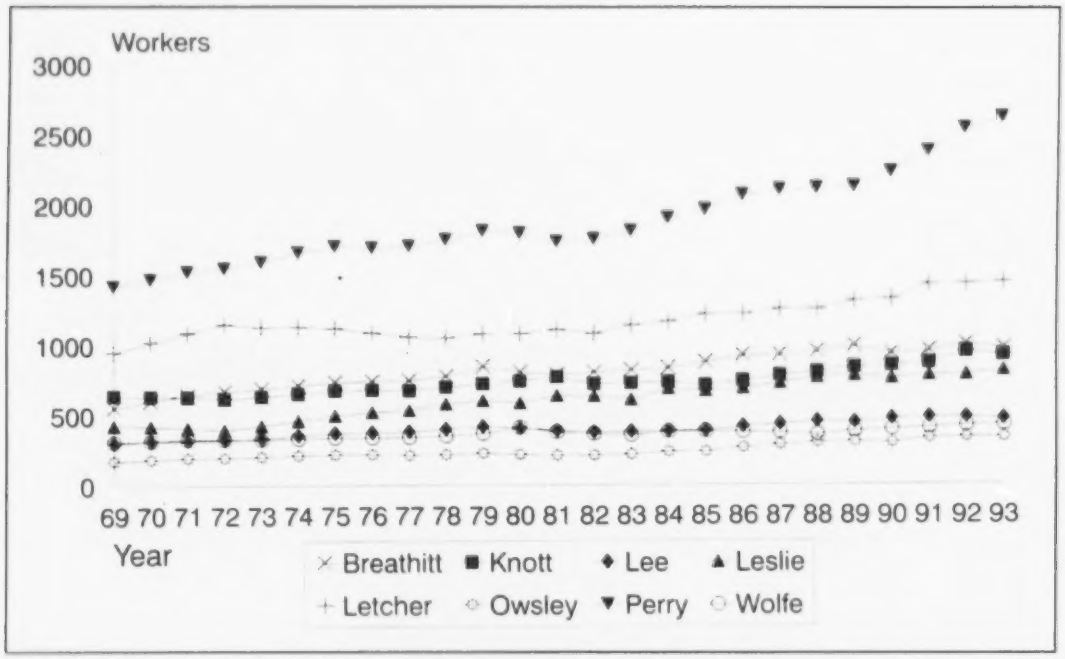
SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

1988. The only county to show any real stability was Knott, which had very few jobs. KRADD counties certainly illustrate the difficulties in attracting and keeping manufacturing industries that much of Eastern Kentucky has faced.

Government Employment

A look at government employment (Chart 6) partially explains why overall employment has increased in KRADD since 1969, especially in Perry County. Government employment provides the main evidence of Perry County's role as a growth center. Gains in government employment represent the largest sector of employment increases for KRADD, but most of the gains have been concentrated in the Hazard area. Government employment increases in Perry County probably have helped spur the economy, triggering employment gains in sectors such as services

CHART 6: Government Employment, 1969-1993.



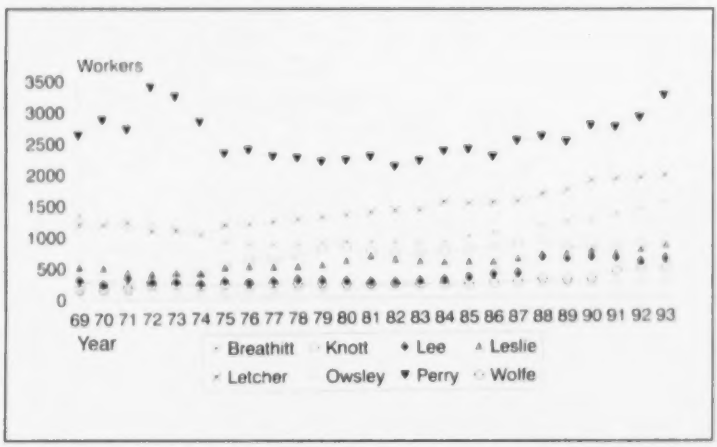
SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

and retailing. One side effect of this decision over the years is increased dependence on government employment, meaning at least some of the dependence on coal employment has been shifted to the government sector.

Service Jobs

Service employment also has grown in KRADD counties, as Chart 7 shows. Note that the number of jobs actually declined in Perry County with the 1970s recession and coal boom and gained as the boom petered out in the 1980s. It is likely, increased demand for miners crimped the number of workers available to the service sector, which generally pays lower wages.

CHART 7: Service Employment, 1969-1993.



SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Breathitt County followed a pattern similar to Perry County's, but was not as steep. Over the years, it seems all of the counties have shown some growth in the service sector. As might be expected, the lowest growth levels have been in Owsley and Wolfe counties in the northern tier.

Labor Force Characteristics

Unemployment Rates

As Table 6 indicates, KRADD's counties over time have had unemployment rates consistently higher than the state average. The good news is that rates were generally lower in 1990 than they were in 1970, with some substantial reductions. Over the 20-year period, Wolfe County's rate was considerably higher. Considering this measure, the counties have actually out-performed the rest of the state, where the unemployment rate was higher in 1990 than it was in 1970. Table 7 shows unemployment rates in November, 1995, for KRADD counties. Rates in most of the counties remained substantially above the Kentucky rate, with the exception of Owsley County, which was only slightly above the statewide rate.

> ***Changes in the Calculation of Unemployment Rates***
>
> *In January, 1990, the federal government changed the way it calculated unemployment. More recent estimates of unemployment are not comparable with measures made before then.*

TABLE 6: Unemployment Rates in KRADD Counties, 1970, 1980, 1990.

State/County	Unemployment 1970 (%)	Unemployment 1980 (%)	Unemployment 1990 (%)
Kentucky	4.4	8.0	5.8
Breathitt	9.6	11.8	9.1
Knott	14.7	10.9	8.6
Lee	8.6	12.5	8.3
Leslie	15.6	8.5	5.7
Letcher	7.9	11.0	7.7
Owsley	20.0	14.6	8.5
Perry	9.1	9.8	7.2
Wolfe	6.5	12.8	15.3

Source: Cantrell, 1993; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

TABLE 7: 1995 Unemployment Rates in KRADD Counties, November, 1995.

State/County	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate (%)
Kentucky	1855231	1762832	92399	5.0
Breathitt	5001	4608	393	7.9
Knott	5602	5246	356	6.4
Lee	2405	2243	162	6.7
Leslie	4309	4049	260	6.0
Letcher	7548	6901	647	8.6
Owsley	1487	1410	77	5.2
Perry	11296	10399	897	7.9
Wolfe	2899	2693	206	7.1

SOURCE: Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, November, 1995; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Labor Force Participation

Another view of unemployment shows up in a summary of labor force participation, the percent of employed working-age population (Table 8). All of KRADD's counties were far below the state rate for labor force participation in 1990. Owsley County was not only lowest in KRADD, but also in the state. It seems likely that geography and history are not as important a factor in labor force participation as level of education and availability of job opportunities, which are extremely limited in most of the counties.

The Problem with Unemployment Rates

The well-publicized unemployment figures that the government issues each month only include those who are actively looking for work. Under some conditions, there may be a large number of people who are out of work, but are not looking for a job. Sometimes, these are called "discouraged workers," people who are unable to participate in the labor market for personal reasons or simply because there are so few jobs available and there is nowhere to look. Cantrell (1993) discusses various problems with measuring labor-force participation and unemployment. It is important to note that Kentucky's overall participation rate was among the lowest in the U.S. in 1990, probably because of the lack of job opportunities in many labor markets..

TABLE 8: Labor Force Participation Rates in KRADD Counties, 1990.

State/County	Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)
Kentucky	60.5	51.2	70.8
Breathitt	44.1	33.7	55.4
Knott	41.6	29.6	54.1
Lee	43.9	35.7	52.9
Leslie	41.7	27.0	57.2
Letcher	43.5	26.8	61.9
Owsley	36.7	34.0	39.4
Perry	46.8	34.1	60.6
Wolfe	45.5	37.1	54.0

Source: Cantrell, 1993; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Work Force Commuting Patterns

Given the growth center development we have already discussed, it is important to attempt to identify where workers are employed in relationship to where they live. Table 9 suggests some of the commuting patterns for KRADD counties in 1990. Perry County was indeed the growth center, with 30.1 percent of the labor force commuting in; other counties ranged from about 10 percent to about 18 percent. Counties with the highest percentages of workers commuting out were Knott, Leslie, Owsley, and Wolfe. Leslie and Knott, which border Perry County, also had the lowest percentage of those working and living in their own counties. Breathitt, Letcher, and Perry had the highest percentage of workers working and living in their own counties.

Commuting patterns provide evidence of the growth center, as well as which counties have the ability to support a substantial percentage of their residents with job opportunities. The ability to support residents with employment is a vital link to community sustainability and a stable population level.

TABLE 9: Work Force Commuting Patterns for KRADD Counties, 1990.

County (n)	% Commute out	% Commute in	Work, Live in
Breathitt (5300)	16.9	18.4	64.6
Knott	40.0	14.5	45.5
Lee	23.0	17.0	60.0
Leslie	34.0	15.5	50.5
Letcher	20.3	13.5	66.2
Owsley	29.3	10.1	60.6
Perry	7.3	30.1	62.6
Wolfe	32.9	11.7	55.4

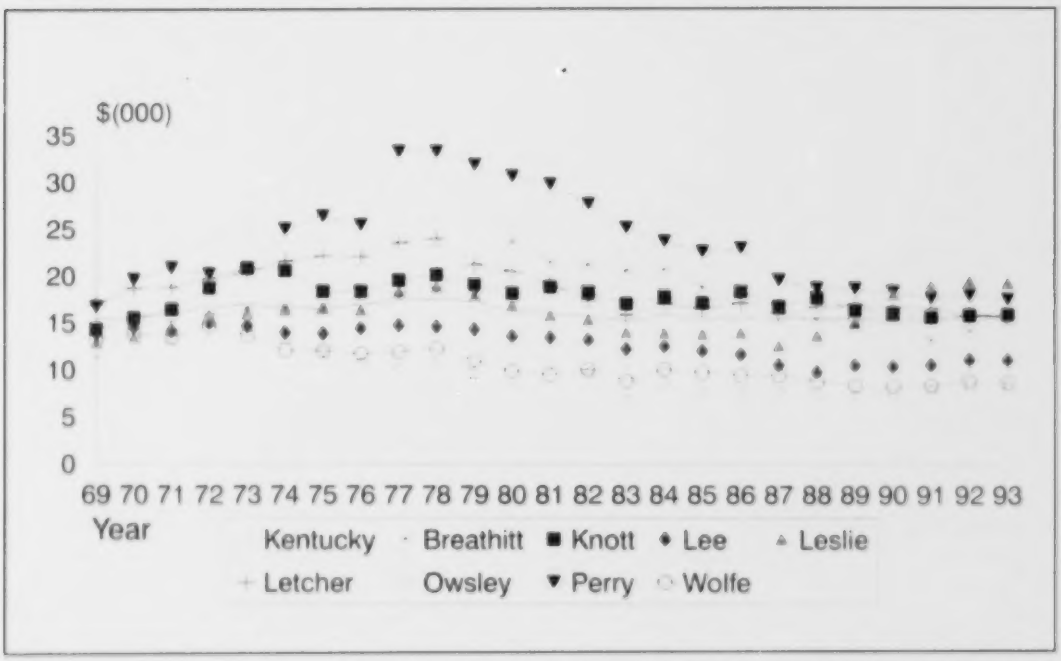
Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Wages and Income

Average Earnings for Jobs

At first glance, it appears wages have been rising in KRADD's counties. But it is important to consider the effects of inflation. Chart 8 illustrates what has happened. Inflation has been a real factor in half of the counties since 1969. In fact, earnings for Kentucky as a whole have slipped. Leslie County appears to have had the largest gain, while Knott and Breathitt counties also have shown an increase. Perry County, after surging during the 1970s, has fallen back considerably to show a slight increase for the period; there is no question that the decline is linked to the loss of coal employment and the replacement of those jobs by government and service positions that pay lower wages. Note that Breathitt County followed a similar pattern. Meanwhile, Lee, Letcher, Owsley, and Wolfe counties all declined.

CHART 8: Inflation-adjusted Average Earnings per Job, 1969-1993.



SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Average Placement Wages

Table 10 suggests another area of concern. Over five years — 1989-90 to 1993-94 — in which the inflation rate was relatively low, inflation-adjusted placement wages for selected industries tended to fall. While new employees in areas such as sales and agriculture and forestry registered gains, employees in most other areas suffered losses. It seems that many newly employed workers are not as well off as their predecessors of recent years. The obvious risk is a drop in the standard of living for the area.

The Cost of Inflation

Between 1989 and 1993, the Consumer Price Index increased from 124 to 144.5, what many consider to be a relatively modest gain. During this time, the real value of wages declined by about 16.5 percent. The figures in the last column of Table 10 are adjusted from the average wage reported in 1993-94 to reflect the estimated loss between 1989-90 and 1993-94.

TABLE 10: Average Placement Wages, KRADD Counties.

	1989-90		1993-94		Inflation-
	Number of Placements	Average Wage ($)	Number of Placements	Average Wage ($)	adjusted Wage ($)
All Occup.	1,392	4.02	1,564	4.78	3.82
Clerical	483	3.73	414	4.45	3.56
Sales	54	4.02	43	6.43	5.14
Services (exc. domestic)	483	3.35	502	4.08	3.26
Ag./fish./for.	5	3.75	5	5.30	4.24
Processing	12	5.54	1	4.25	3.40
Machine Trades	29	4.42	23	6.02	4.82
Bench Work	2	5.53	190	4.39	3.51
Structural	161	5.35	199	5.55	4.44
Motor Freight/ Transp.	42	4.96	41	5.30	4.24
Pkging./Materials Handling	46	3.66	48	4.55	3.64
Other	33	8.75	32	10.72	8.58

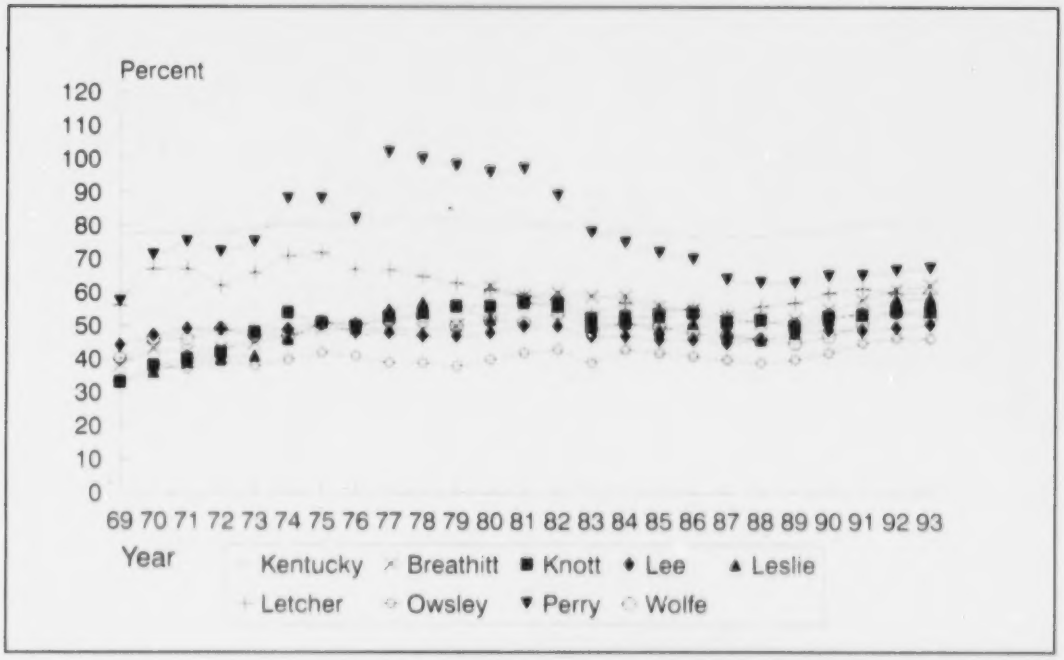
Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources, Department for Employment Services; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Per-capita Income

One piece of news that appears good is the increase in per-capita income as a percent of the U.S. for KRADD counties between 1969 and 1993. Chart 9 suggests the area made real gains compared with the state and the nation. There was, however, a considerable gap that remained to be bridged, as per-capita income levels remained well below Kentucky and the rest of the nation.

The 1980s were particularly hard on the state and most KRADD counties. Per-capita income in the Commonwealth slipped from 81 percent of the national average in 1980 to 79 percent in 1990. A few counties managed to hold their own or show a little growth. For example, Leslie County was unchanged at 52 percent of the national average in both 1980 and 1990; Lee County increased from 48 percent to 49 percent; and Owsley County moved up from 40 percent to 42 percent. The rest of the KRADD counties showed declines: Breathitt dropped from 62 percent to 55 percent; Knott, 56 to 53; Letcher, 61 to 60; Perry, 96 to 65; and Wolfe, 52 to 47.

CHART 9: KRADD Counties' Per-capita Income as Percent of U.S.



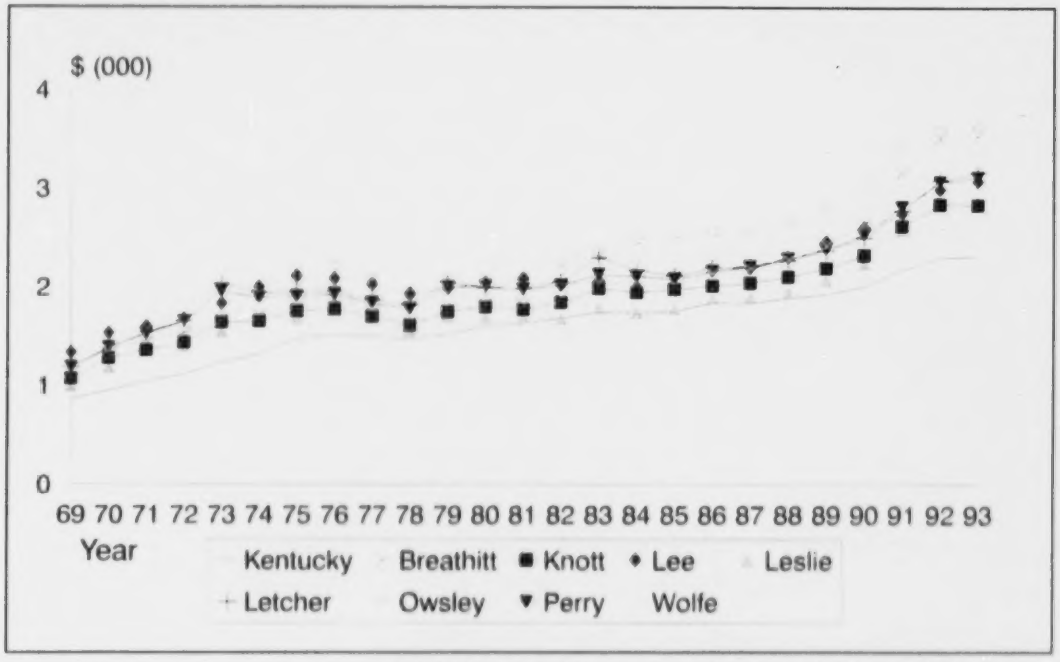
SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center
CHART 9

Despite slowed growth and losses in the 1980s, the area recovered during the early 1990s. Some counties have showed marked gains since 1969. For example, Leslie County jumped from 33 percent of national per-capita income in 1969 to 58 percent in 1993. Breathitt County jumped from 38 percent to 62 percent. Knott County jumped from 33 percent to 58 percent. Other counties showed smaller gains: Owsley, 33 percent to 46 percent, and Wolfe, 40 percent to 53 percent. Lee (44 percent to 51 percent) and Letcher (56 percent to 60 percent) counties showed the smallest increases. The chart also suggests volatility in Perry County's economy. The energy crisis of the 1970s propelled the county's per-capita income to above the 100-percent level, but the income sank rapidly in the early 1980s in the downturn; even so, from 1969 to 1993, the county's per-capita income increased from 57 percent to 67 percent of the U.S. level.

Per-capita Transfer Payments

While per-capita income has increased in the area since 1969 when adjusted for inflation, it turns out that a major part of the funds inflow is related to an inflation-adjusted increase in per-capita transfer payments from government agencies (Chart 10). The area's increasing dependence on government aid comes out all too clearly over time as payments have doubled and even tripled. In tandem with increased government-sector employment over the past couple of decades, the data suggest increased dependence on the government. Several other points are clear from this chart: 1) All of the counties were fairly close together in 1969; 2) the counties were more scattered by 1993, and some (Owsley, Breathitt and Wolfe) had shown marked increases; and 3) all of the counties tended to increase their gap with the state over time. Given the increase in government transfer payments, the underlying theme is the difficulty of attracting private capital;

CHART 10: Per-capita Transfer Payments Adjusted for Inflation, 1969-1993.



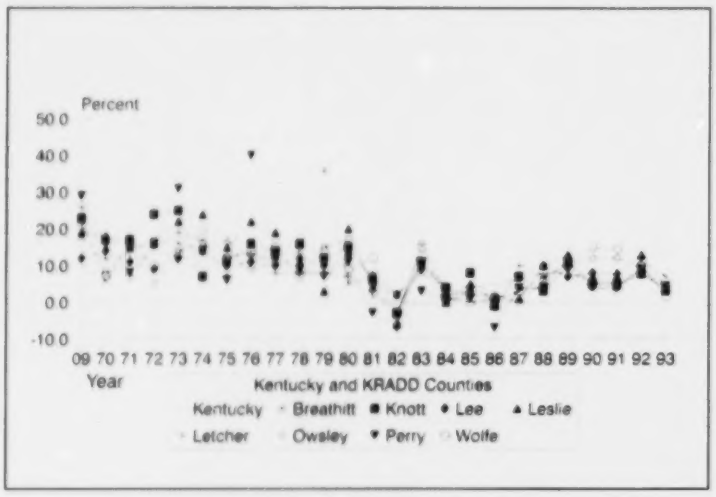
SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

the chart documents increased government expenditures in an effort to mitigate that circumstance. The data also suggest increasingly disparate development patterns that negatively affect the Commonwealth's poorest regions.

Total Personal Income

Chart 11 shows percentage changes in total personal income from year to year have slowed since 1969, a sign of underlying weakness in KRADD's economy and the nation as a whole. It appears Perry County has been extremely unstable, as have, to some extent, Breathitt and Leslie. The instability seems related to the coal industry, and the major coal-producing counties of the south seem far more unstable than the smaller northern counties.

CHART 11: Percent Change in Total Personal Income, 1969-1993.

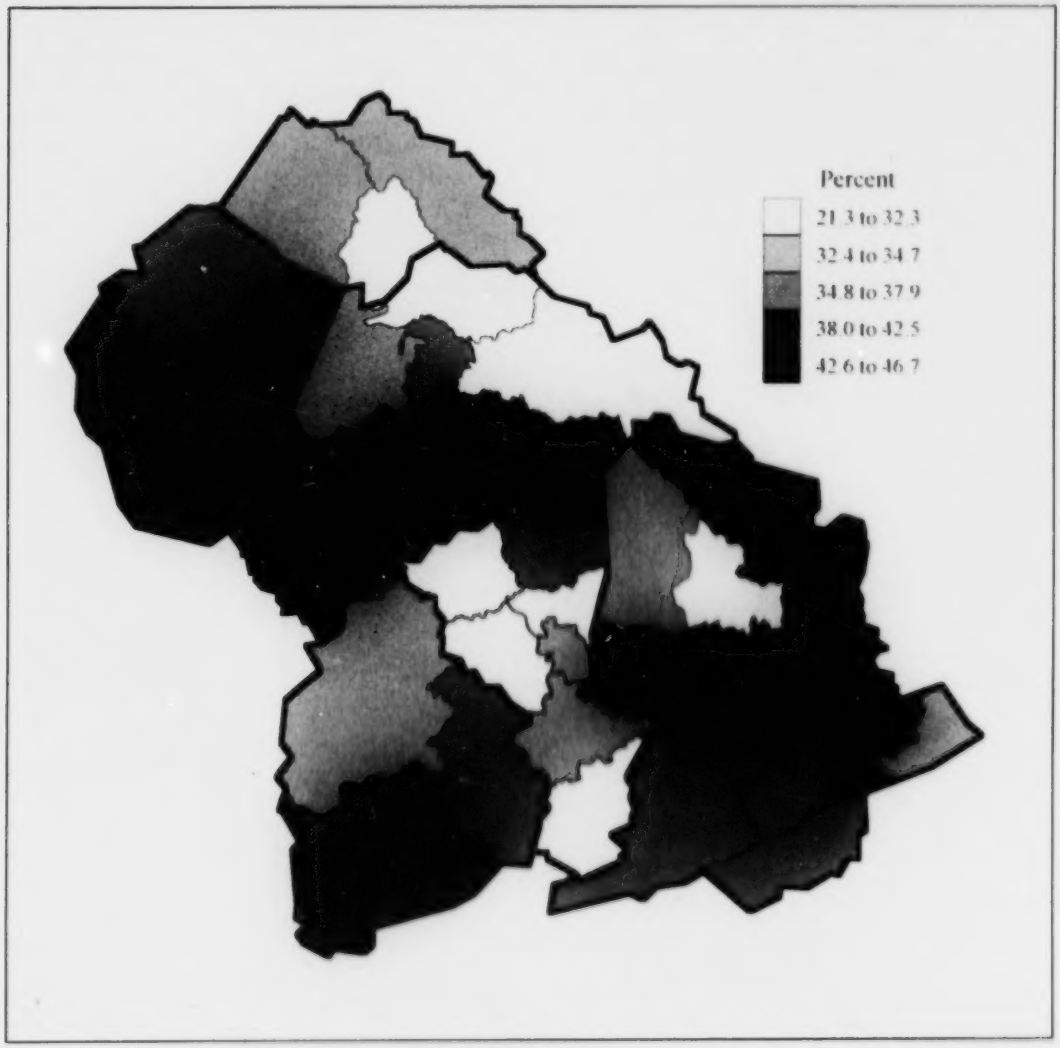


SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Persons without Earnings

Map 5 identifies KRADD census tracts showing the percentage of persons without earnings. Perry County has only one high-percentage tract, a sign of its position as a growth center. With the exception of one band of census tracts across Breathitt and Wolfe counties, it appears KRADD is really divided into three areas, with a high concentration of persons without earnings in the north, east, and west. This phenomenon is tied into labor-force participation and suggests vestiges of different development patterns among the counties.

MAP 5: Persons without Earnings by Census Tract.

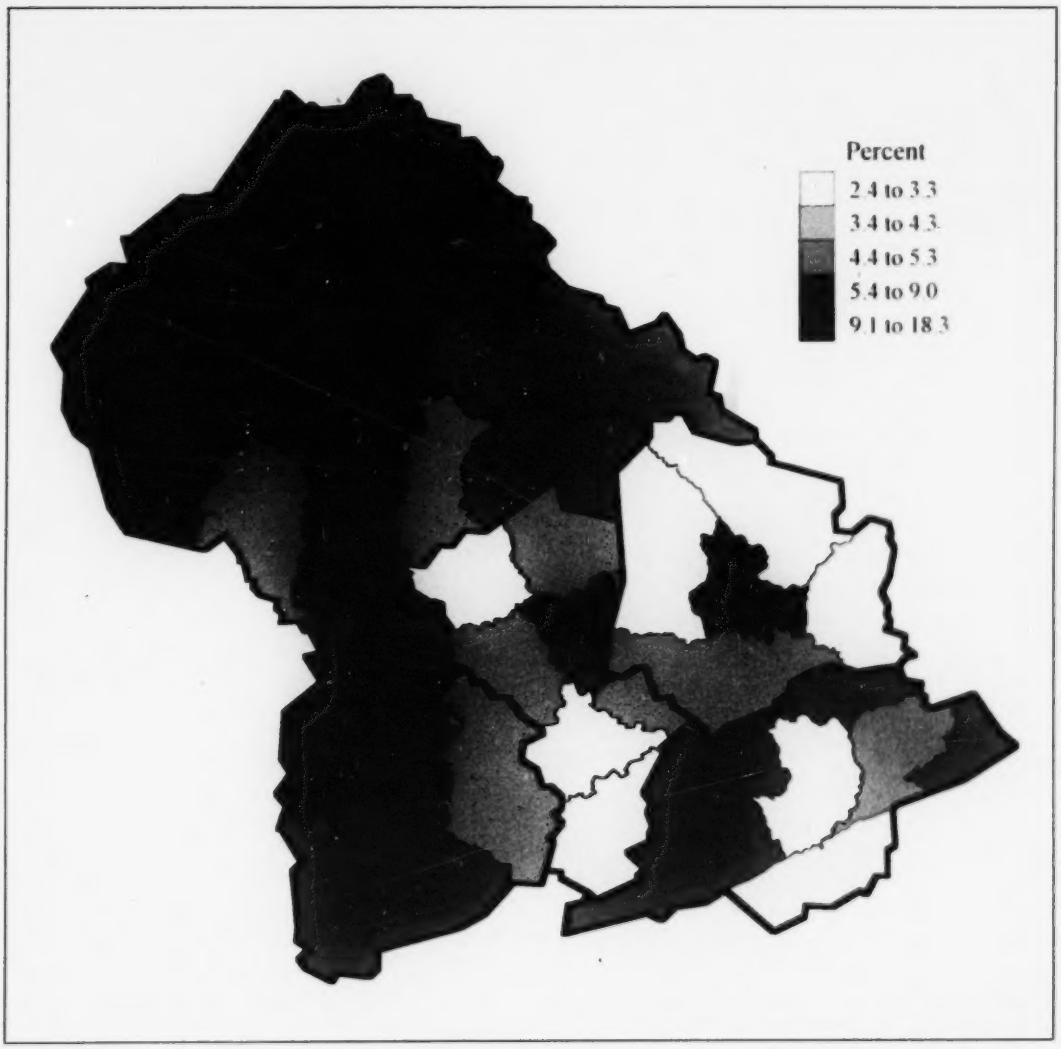


SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Persons with Self Income

As might be expected, the percentage of persons in census tracts reporting self income tends to be highest in the high-poverty areas—those with the least economic opportunity (Map 6). This is not a reflection on the limits of self employment, which can give people a certain amount of freedom and a tremendous amount of self satisfaction, while building stronger communities. In a local context of high poverty characterized by low income and limited employment opportunities, higher rates of self income imply that people are doing the best they can with the resources they have available. This represents a strong work ethic and a desire for employment in the area.

MAP 6: Persons with Self Income by Census Tract.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Poverty

Poverty Rate

KRADD, as well as much of Eastern Kentucky, is characterized by high poverty rates. Table 11 traces these rates in 1970, 1980, and 1990. During the 1970s, rates fell dramatically, both as a result of the War on Poverty, which ran from the mid 1960s to the mid 1970s, and the energy boom, which ran through the 1970s. There was a turnaround in the 1980s, however, a sign of the end of the energy boom and fundamental changes in the national economy. Knott, Wolfe, and Perry counties showed the greatest gains in poverty rates. Some may find the Perry County gain particularly surprising, given the employment growth during the period. But, considering the inflation-adjusted decline in wages, this is a sign of more working poor, people who have jobs, but receive low pay.

TABLE 11: Poverty Rates in KRADD Counties, 1970, 1980, 1990.

State/County	Poverty 1970 (%)	Poverty 1980 (%)	Poverty 1990 (%)
Kentucky	22.9	17.6	19.0
Breathitt	57.4	36.0	39.5
Knott	62.6	30.9	40.4
Lee	55.2	33.4	37.4
Leslie	60.9	34.1	35.6
Letcher	44.2	27.4	31.8
Owsley	66.0	48.3	52.1
Perry	44.6	24.3	32.1
Wolfe	60.9	34.9	44.3

Source: Cantrell, 1993; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

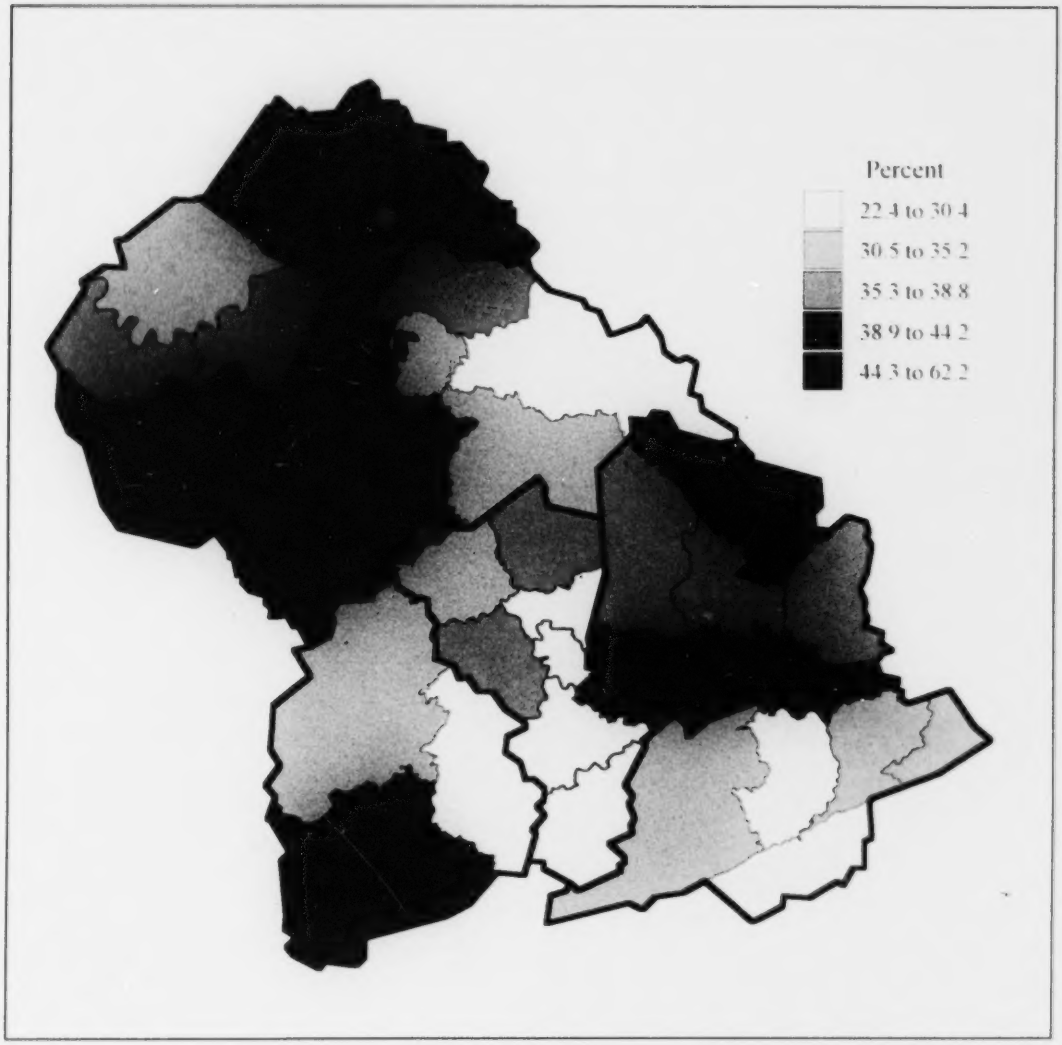
Also note that throughout these decades, KRADD counties have exceeded the poverty rate for the Commonwealth of Kentucky by a wide margin, and the increases in these rates between 1980 and 1990 far exceeded the gain statewide. While there has been a decline in poverty rates in KRADD counties since 1970, the decline was reversed during the last decade.

Map 7 suggests the geographic distribution of poverty rates based on 1990 Census tract data. This map indicates that the most severely distressed areas within KRADD lie on the periphery of the growth center and transportation corridors centered in the heart of the district, especially in Perry County. Part of Perry County and an adjoining section of Leslie County form the largest group of lower-poverty census tracts.

The map also suggests that the coal industry has had some positive economic effects -- through employment and higher wages -- to mitigate poverty in coal-producing areas. It is important to point out, however, that the coal economy is extremely unstable, and employment in the industry has declined steadily over the past decade, while production levels have remained steady. Mechanization and changes in the structure of the globalized energy economy make it unlikely that coal will be able to play this mitigating role on poverty rates in the future.

Because the Appalachian region tends to have higher poverty rates than elsewhere, and because so many areas are dependent on coal extraction, poverty and coal mining do continue to go hand in hand, however. Once an area's coal resources are played out, socioeconomic conditions deteriorate because of the serious environmental effects. The damaged land has a reduced economic value and is of little use for producing jobs and income for residents who stay in the area.

MAP 7: Persons in Poverty by Census Tract.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Children under 18 in Poverty

Perhaps poverty has its most tragic effects on children. As Table 12 suggests, the plight of children in most areas of KRADD is grave. The percentage of children on AFDC ranges from almost 18 percent in Letcher County to 36 percent in Owsley County. In the whole district, more than half of the children are in families that receive food stamps. The regional distribution of poverty tends to be heaviest in the northern, least-developed counties (Map 8). The lowest poverty levels tended to be in the most-developed areas.

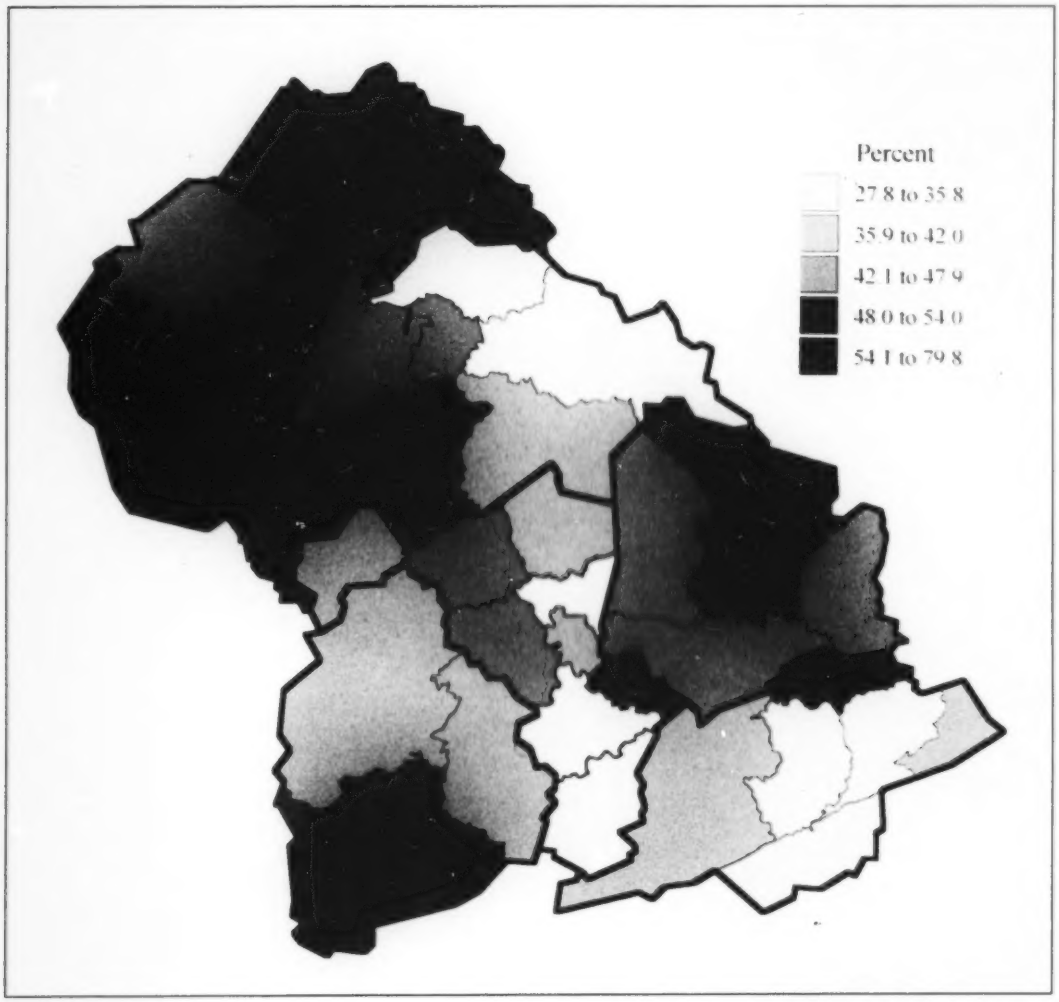
> ***A Note About Children***
>
> *Appendix B gives some other "indicator trends" for children in KRADD counties.*

TABLE 12: Percent of Children Participating in Poverty Programs.

State/County	% on AFDC	% on Food Stamps
Kentucky	10.7	26.8
Breathitt	25.8	64.1
Knott	23.9	54.1
Lee	24.3	60.5
Leslie	19.9	47.9
Letcher	17.9	47.2
Owsley	35.9	74.6
Perry	20.2	52.9
Wolfe	29.6	63.9

SOURCE: Kentucky Kids Count Consortium, 1994; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

MAP 8: Children under 18 in Poverty by Census Tract.

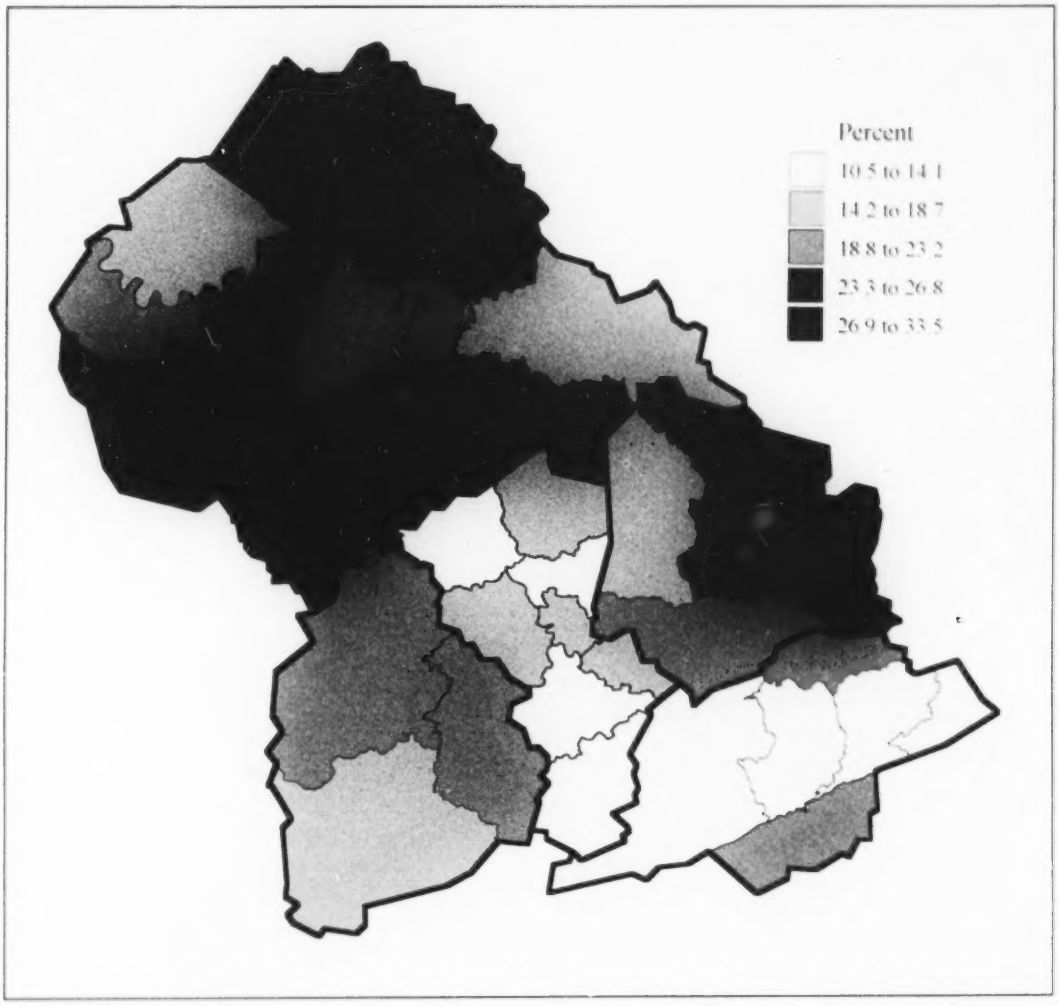


SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Persons Receiving Public Assistance

With Map 9, we again return to a familiar pattern that is clearly related to poverty rates. The highest percentages of persons receiving public assistance tend to be in the northern areas of KRADD. This is an area of heavy pressure on the governmental infrastructure to supply aid to the poor.

MAP 9: Persons Receiving Public Assistance by Census Tract.



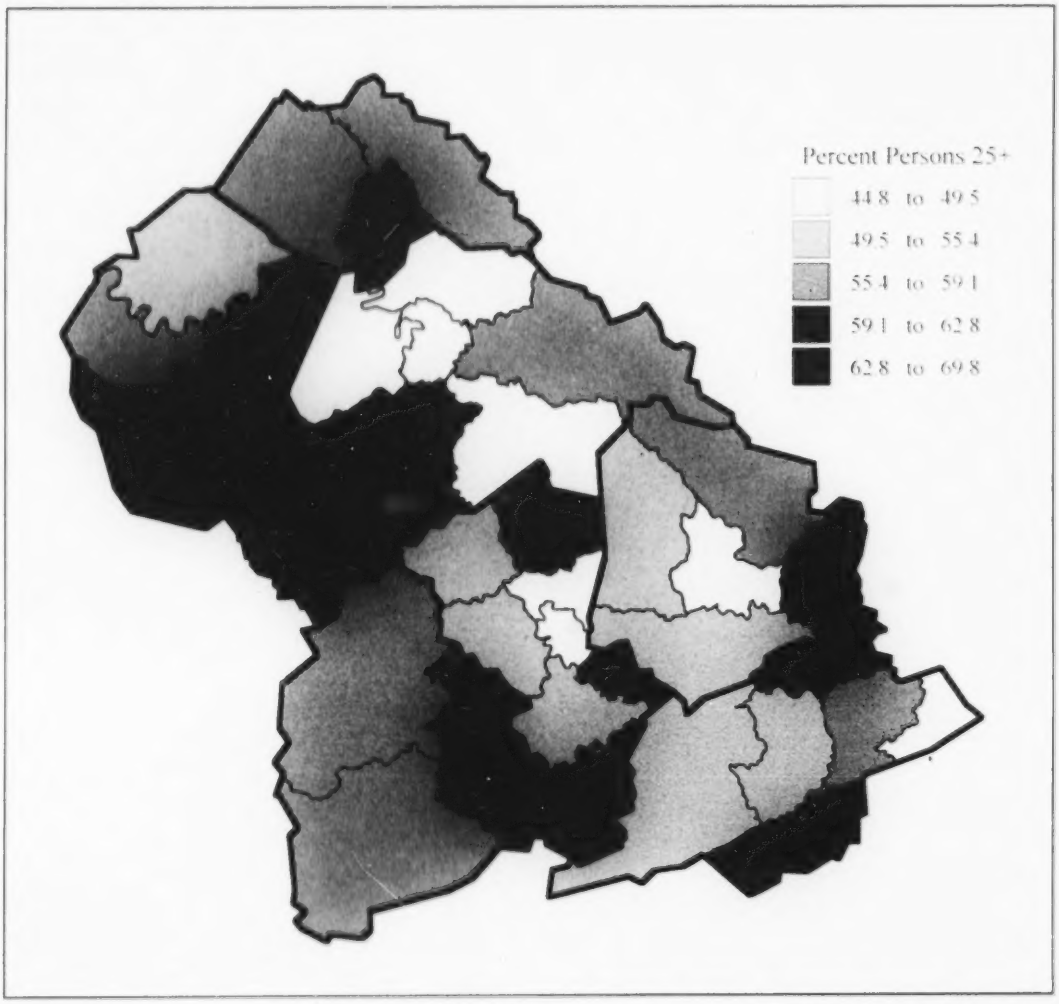
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Education

High-school Graduates

Many Kentuckians have grown increasingly aware of the need for improved education. The state has a long-standing education deficit, and the relatively low education levels are apparent in Map 10, which shows the percent of persons aged 25 and older who do not have a high-school diploma. One striking feature of the map is the extremely high level of percentages of persons without a high-school diploma. In addition, the pattern seen in earlier maps of economic conditions is somewhat visible. Although it is not totally clear cut, it appears the census tracts with the lowest educational levels are in the northern and western reaches of KRADD, according to the 1990 Census. This pattern provides evidence to suggest that one possible consequence of the growth center development is better educational opportunities for those who are nearer the center or who live in county seats where schools are located.

MAP 10: Persons without High-school Diploma by Census Tract, 1990.

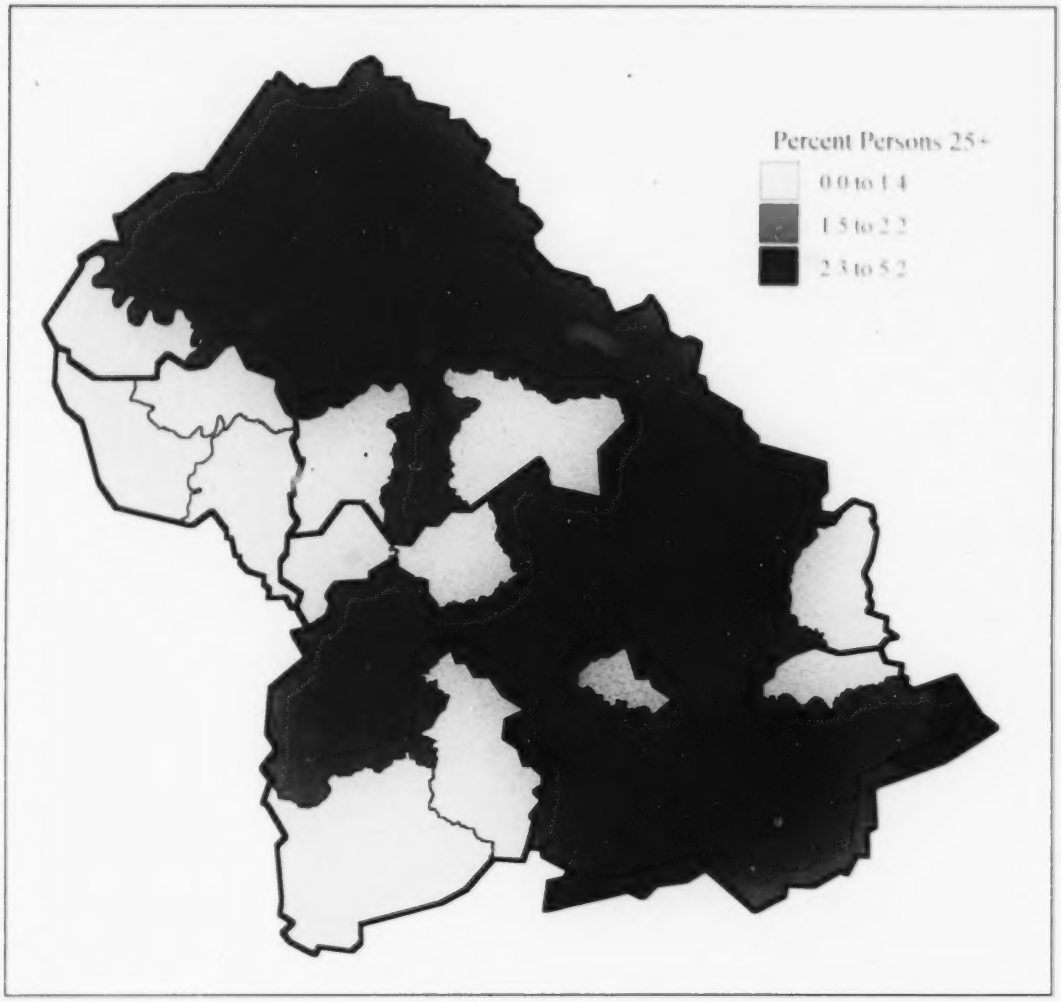


SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Associate Degrees

Considering that there are two two-year colleges and one four-year college within KRADD, Map 11 dramatizes the low level of post-secondary education. The highest levels again tend to be, with some notable exceptions, in the southern area, and tend to be lowest where poverty levels tend to be highest. There appears to be a relationship between increased job opportunities and increased education levels.

MAP 11: Persons with Associate Degrees by Census Tract.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Overall Ranking and Conclusions

The data describe overall development patterns that have resulted in a wide range of economic differences among communities within KRADD. In order to better illustrate these differences, selected data were combined to calculate a score that would rank KRADD census tracts into five groups to estimate their condition relative to each other (Map 12). With one exception, the healthiest tracts were in Perry County, while the bulk of the less prosperous tracts were in the northern area. Map 13 shows the numerical ranking of each census tract. Both maps suggest further evidence of the relative success of Perry County as a growth center, but they also suggest the predicted spin-off effects of this development for the rest of the area have not been what citizens and planners had hoped for.

If nothing else, this study documents the challenges facing KRADD to counter the historical forces that have led to out-migration, low-skill and low-wage jobs, high poverty rates, and low levels of education. In recent years there have been improvements in some of these categories, but the economic outlook remains uncertain, and the gains are under constant threat from political and economic change. Some trends that bear watching include:

Growth Center Development

Hazard and Perry County will continue to benefit from their geographic position as a regional service center. Long-run evidence, however, suggests there are problems with a model of development that centralizes resources in one community at the expense of balanced development in the surrounding rural areas. With respect to KRADD, it is possible to argue that this model has actually increased economic inequalities among the counties. It contributes to a growing gap between the more prosperous and the more severely distressed communities of the district and adds to the long-run risk of heightening rivalries, conflicts, and tensions among county government agencies and citizens. Although there are exceptions, the differences between the center and outlying rural areas of KRADD continue to be a reality that future economic planning should address.

Demographics

Uneven periods of boom and bust development have produced great fluctuations in the population of KRADD counties. Slow but steady growth is far more preferable than sudden swings of in- and out-migration. Public services and community sustainability are inextricably linked to population stability. The growing percentage of elderly residents in relatively remote areas of KRADD should be a concern for the entire district.

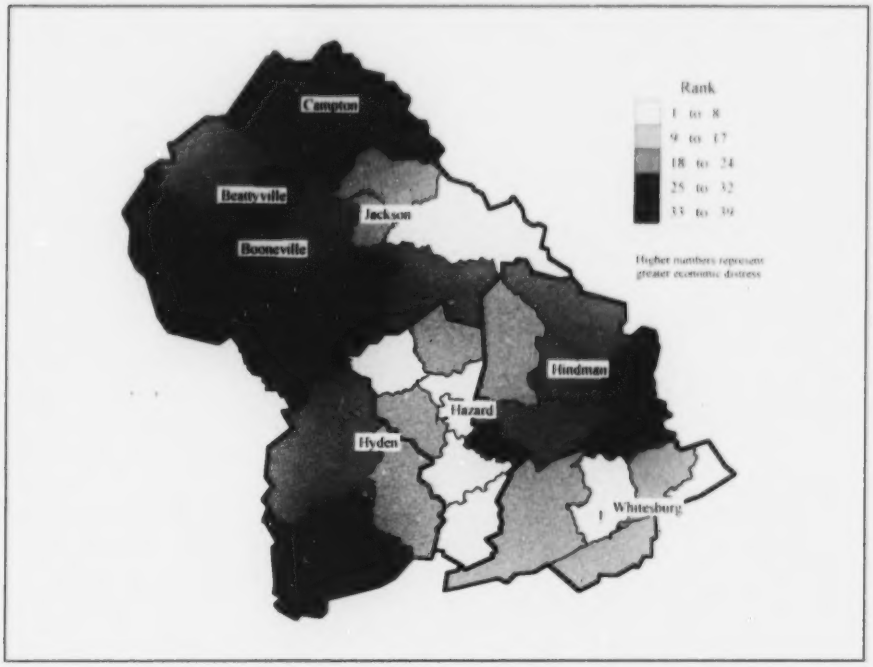
Employment

Coal is no longer **the** dominant industry in KRADD. It remains **an** important industry, but increasingly, coal mining shares a leading role with government and services as the major employer. Coal mining jobs are expected to decline further in the future. The area has had some limited success in attracting industrial firms, but industrial employment has been quite unstable over the last two decades. Providing secure and sustainable jobs within the context of a changing world and national economy will be the greatest economic challenge facing KRADD counties in the future.

Labor Force Characteristics

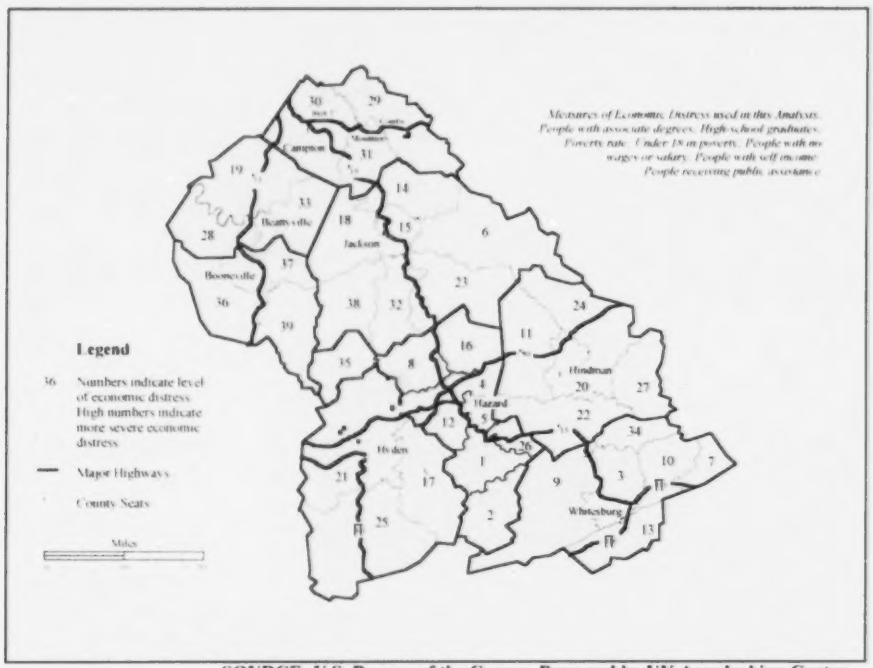
KRADD counties have improved their unemployment rates in the last three years, but these rates still tend to be above the state average. Underemployment, especially among women and youth remains high, as do estimates of the "discouraged worker" population. Labor force participation rates also are extremely low, probably as a result of poor education and lack of employment opportunities in the past. Improvements in basic education, job training programs, and entrepreneur education will be crucial to building a labor force capable of succeeding in the new economy of the future.

MAP 12: Measures of Economic Distress by Census Tract.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

MAP 13: Ranking of Economic Distress Measures by Census Tract.


Measures of Economic Distress used in this Analysis:
People with associate degrees. High school graduates.
Poverty rate. Under 18 in poverty. People with no
wages or salary. People with self-income.
People receiving public assistance
Legend
36 Numbers indicate level of economic distress. High numbers indicate more severe economic distress
Major Highways
County Seats
Miles
Hindman
Hazard
Hyden
Whitesburg

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

Wages and Income

While per-capita income in the KRADD counties has risen since 1969, there is evidence that these gains have been offset by rising dependence upon government transfer payments and declining real wages (adjusted for inflation) in many areas of the district. The decline in coal industry employment and the replacement of these positions with government and service sector jobs has resulted in a growing wage gap between KRADD workers and their counterparts in the rest of the Commonwealth and the nation. Despite economic growth, workers n KRADD counties have fallen behind in their inflation-adjusted pay. Attention to the quality as well as the quantity of employment opportunities will be important if KRADD is to reverse this trend.

Poverty

Poverty continues to be the number one economic challenge facing the Kentucky River Area Development District. While there have been dramatic decreases in poverty rates since the early 1960s, trends since the 1980s show very significant backsliding. The number of children in poverty, especially in the outlying areas of KRADD remains among the highest in the nation and casts a shadow over the economic future of the district. The rise in poverty rates over the last decade has been mitigated somewhat by an increase in government transfer payments since 1990, but such a policy has major ramifications in times of major federal budget cuts for welfare and social programs. Nor is this dependency upon federal transfer payments a sound substitute for programs that help the poor gain the skills and opportunities necessary to become good productive workers.

Education

Given a global economy, the future of KRADD's workers is tied to their education level. Communities in central Appalachia can no longer compete with workers in newly industrializing areas of the world who receive lower wages. American workers in the new technology and information age will require greater flexibility in education and job skills in order to compete in a global marketplace. The Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 (KERA) is crucial to the state's strategy of improving education, but KERA's effects will take the better part of a generation before they are felt in the work force. Economic planning and job creation opportunities in KRADD, therefore, need to be integrated with and to anticipate the educational changes now occurring as a result of KERA. Unless the overall economy in KRADD counties is improved by developing sustainable and secure jobs, there is the risk of increased out-migration as better-educated workers in the future leave their communities in search of better employment opportunities.

Part III

Selected Community Organizations Serving KRADD

Appalachian Environmental Products
Incorporated - Chair Factory
Rt 2
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-6948

Appalachian Fireside Crafts
Rt. 2
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-5280

Appalbanc
PO Box 504
Berea, KY 40403
606-986-8423

Appalshop
302 Madison St.
Whitesburg, KY 41858
606-633-1009

Barwick Community Garden Cooperatives
PO Box 227
Chavies, KY 41727
606-864-2351

Beattyville Lee County Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 127
Beattyville, KY 41311
606-464-8857

Booneville-Owsley County Industrial Authority
PO Box 68
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-5151

Breathitt County Local Governance Project
870 Littles Creek Road
Little, KY 41346
606-398-2606

Business and Industry Technical Assistance
Center Hazard Community College
601 Main Street
Hazard, KY 41701
606-439-5856

Catholic Committee of Appalachia
115 Main St #4
Whitesburg, KY 41858
606-633-8440

Christian Appalachian Project
322 Crab Orchard Rd.
Lancaster, KY 40446
606-792-3051

Christian Outreach with Appalachian People
PO Box 1617
Harlan, KY 40831
606-573-9853

Eastern Kentucky Child Care Coalition (EKCC)
PO Box 267
Berea, KY 40403
(800) 634-7605
606-986-3901

Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment
Program Inc.
458 Village Lane
Hazard, KY 41701
606-436-5755

Eastern Kentucky Corporation
PO Drawer 7190
Hazard, KY 41702
(800) 489-0291
606-439-0291

Eastern Kentucky Goat Producers
PO Box 157
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-6584

Eastern Kentucky Vegetable Producers
Association
PO Box 157
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-6984

Eastern KY Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) Central Office
458 Village Lane
Hazard, KY 41701
606-436-5751

Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises Inc.
Drawer B
Berea, KY 40403
606-986-5836

GayHeart Associates
Linda Gayheart
PO Box 105
100 Fox Run Ridge
Hindman, KY 41822
606-785-0606

Green Thumb Inc. Kentucky/ West Virginia Unit
PO Box A
194 Main Street
Beattyville, KY 41311
606-464-3675

Hazard Lions Club
PO Box 745
Hazard, KY 41702
606-439-7378

Hazard-Perry County Chamber of Commerce
601 Main Street
Hazard, KY 41701
606-439-2659

Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries
PO Box 1506
Hazard, KY 41702
606-436-0497

Hazard-Perry County Industrial Development Corporation
601 Main Street
Hazard, KY 41701
606-439-5856

Heifer Project International
260 Old Big Hill Road
McKee, KY 40447

Highlander Research and Education Center
1959 Highland Way
New Market, TN 37820
(615) 933-3443

Hindman Settlement School
PO Box 844
Hindman, KY 41882
606-785-5473

Homegrown Development Inc.
PO Box 296
Campton, KY 41301
606-668-3092

Housing-Oriented Ministries Established for Service (HOMES)
PO Box 8
Neon, KY 41840
606-855-4561

Human Economic Appalachian Development (HEAD)
PO Box 504
Berea, KY 40403
606-986-8423

Hyden/Leslie County Chamber of Commerce
Box 948
Hyden, KY 41749
606-672-2344

Interfaith of Breathitt
PO Box 86
Jackson, KY 41339
606-666-7760

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth Main Office
PO Box 275
Blackey, KY 41804
606-633-5899

Kentucky Economic Expansion Program
KY Cabinet for Economic Development
Dept. of Community Development
2300 Capital Plaza Tower
Frankfort, KY 40601
606-564-7140

Kentucky Local Governance Project
HC 67 Box 345
Blackey, KY 41804
800-647-0060

Kentucky Power Company
608 High Street
Hazard, KY 41702
606-436-1212

Kentucky River Area Development District
(KRADD)
381 Perry County Park Road
Hazard, KY 41701
606-436-3158

Kentucky Small Farm Project Inc.
PO Box 829
Jackson, KY 41339
606-666-5655

Knott County Community Action Office
HC 32 Box 2150
Redfox, KY 41847
606-642-3332

Knott County Community Development Office
PO Box 21
Hindman, KY 41822
606-785-3322

Lee County Community Action Agency
PO Box 264
Beattyville, KY 41311
606-464-2259

Lee County Forward in the Fifth
PO Box 75
Beattyville, KY 41311
606-464-8173

Lee Habitat for Humanity
PO Box 1266
Beattyville, KY 41311
615-627-2507 (TN)

Leslie County Community Action Office
PO Box 899
Hyden, KY 41749
606-672-2155

Leslie County Concerned Citizens
PO Box 255
Hoskinston, KY 40844

Leslie County Forward in the Fifth
PO Box 108
Wooton, KY 41776
606-672-3900

Letcher County Chamber of Commerce
Box 127
Whitesburg, KY 41858
606-633-8034

Letcher County Community Action Office
PO Box 739-C
Whitesburg, KY 41858
606-633-4458

LKLP Women and Children's Safe House
HC 32 Box 2150
Red Fox, KY 41847
606-439-1552

Middle KY River Area Development Council
(Breathitt Co.)
Breathitt County Courthouse
Jackson, KY 41339
606-666-2452

Mountain Association for Community Economic
Development (MACED)
433 Chestnut St.
Berea, KY 40403
606-986-2373

Owsley County Cando
PO Box 337
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-6265

Owsley County Community Action Office
Room 104
Owsley County Courthouse
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-5103

Owsley County Community Action Team
HC 88 Box 11
Booneville, KY 41314
606-398-7251

Owsley County Forward in the Fifth
HC 64 Box 531
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-5186

Owsley County Habitat for Humanity
PO Box 157
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-6984

Owsley/Lee Industrial Board
Owsley County Courthouse
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-6202

Perry County Community Action Office
PO Box 7047
Hazard, KY 41702
606-439-1362

Regional Development Alliance
601 Main St.
Hazard, KY 41701
606-439-4529

Wolfe County Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 88
Campton, Kentucky 41301
606-668-6554

Wolfe County Community Action Office
Campton, KY 41301
606-668-3549

Wolfe County Industrial Authority
PO Box 429
Campton, KY 41301
606-668-3040

Workers of Rural Kentucky (WORK)
PO Box 157
Booneville, KY 41314
606-593-6984

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky is one of the 51 states in the United States. (including the District of Columbia.) its 1992 population of 3,753,800 ranked 24th in the nation.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Kentucky had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $16,528. This PCPI ranked 41st in the United States and was 82 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Kentucky's PCPI of $9,371 ranked 41st in the United States. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 5.8 percent. The average annual growth rate for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Kentucky had a total personal income (TPI) of $62,043,239. This TPI ranked 26th in the United States and accounted for 1.2 percent of the national total. In 1982, Kentucky's TPI of $34,518,019 ranked 26th in the United States. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 6.0 percent. The average annual growth rate for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer pa[illegible]nts received by the residents of Kentucky. In 1992, earnings were 65.8 percent of TPI (compared with 67.3 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 14.7 percent (compared with 15.3 percent in 1982);and transfer payments were 19.5 percent (compared with 17.4 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 5.8 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 5.6 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 7.3 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Kentucky increased from $24,441,811 in 1982 to $43,624,217 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 6.0 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were services, which accounted for 21.2 percent of earnings; durable goods manufacturing, 12.3 percent; state and local government, 12.0 percent; and retail trade, 10.2 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were services, with 15.4 percent of earnings; durable goods manufacturing, 13.0 percent; state and local government, 10.3 percent; retail trade, 10.2 percent; and non-durable goods manufacturing, 9.9 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was durable goods manufacturing, which increased at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent; the fastest was services, which increased at an average annual rate of 9.4 percent.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

KRADD COUNTIES

The KRADD counties are inextricably linked to the urbanized economy because of natural-resouces extraction. Yet, they are rural in character because of the small size of their towns and cities and because their population is dispersed in many areas. None of the counties is considered to be part of a metropolitan area. County-level rankings given below are in comparison to Kentucky's 120 counties.

BREATHITT COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 15,100, ranked 69th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Breathitt had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,453. This PCPI ranked 84th in the state, and was 75 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 62 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Breathitt's PCPI of $6,983 ranked 87th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 6.0 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Breathitt had a total personal income (TPI) of $188,572.[1] This TPI ranked 70th and accounted for 0.3 percent of the state total. In 1982, Breathitt's TPI of $117,258 ranked 65th. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 4.9 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, earnings were 48.7 percent of TPI (compared with 64.4 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 11.7 percent (compared with 9.4 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 39.5 percent (compared with 26.2 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 2.0 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 7.2 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 9.3 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Breathitt increased from $96,035 in 1982 to $103,854 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 0.8 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were mining, which accounted for 30.5 percent of earnings; services, 20.6 percent; and state and local government, 19.2 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were mining, with 47.1 percent of earnings; transportation and public utilities, 13.8 percent; and state and local government, 10.1 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was mining, which declined at an average annual rate of 3.5 percent; the fastest was services, which increased at an average annual rate of 10.6 percent.

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[1] All income estimates, with the exception of PCPI, are in thousands of dollars.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

KNOTT COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 18,200, ranked 54th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Knott had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $11,059. This PCPI ranked 107th in the state, and was 67 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 55 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Knott's PCPI of $6,637 ranked 99th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 5.2 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Knott had a total personal income (TPI) of $201,640. This TPI ranked 65th in the state and accounted for 0.3 percent of the state total. In 1982, Knott's TPI of $121,047 ranked 63rd in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 5.2 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by the residents of Knott. In 1992, earnings were 54.6 percent of TPI (compared with 62.0 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 9.4 percent (compared with 11.1 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 36.0 percent (compared with 26.8 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 3.9 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 3.5 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 8.4 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Knott increased from $68,402 in 1982 to $89,412 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 2.7 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were mining, which accounted for 39.7 percent of earnings; state and local government, 19.6 percent; and services, 12.0 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were mining, with 58.0 percent of earnings; state and local government, 11.0 percent; and services, 8.4 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was mining, which declined at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 8.9 percent.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

LEE COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 7,900, ranked 106th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Lee had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $10,135. This PCPI ranked 115th in the state, and was 61 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 50 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Lee's PCPI of $5,776 ranked 112th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 5.8 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Lee had a total personal income (TPI) of $79,881. This TPI ranked 113th in the state and accounted for 0.1 percent of the state total. In 1982, Lee's TPI of $44,399 ranked 112th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 6.0 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by the residents of Lee. In 1992, earnings were 47.5 percent of TPI (compared with 54.1 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 11.0 percent (compared with 12.1 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 41.5 percent (compared with 33.8 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 4.7 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 5.0 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 8.2 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Lee increased from $22,709 in 1982 to $35,537 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 4.6 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were state and local government, which accounted for 23.2 percent of earnings; retail trade, 19.1 percent; and services, 18.7 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were mining, with 28.2 percent of earnings; state and local government, 17.5 percent; and retail trade, 16.9 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was mining (8.3 percent of earnings in 1992), which declined at an average annual rate of 7.5 percent; the fastest was durable goods manufacturing (approximately 10 percent of earnings in 1992), which increased at an average annual rate of approximately 30 percent.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

LESLIE COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 13,700, ranked 74th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Leslie had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $11,737. This PCPI ranked 97th in the state, and was 71 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 58 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Leslie's PCPI of $6,496 ranked 100th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 6.1 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Leslie had a total personal income (TPI) of $161,097. This TPI ranked 82nd in the state and accounted for 0.3 percent of the state total. In 1982, Leslie's TPI of $96,602 ranked 76th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 5.2 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by the residents of Leslie. In 1992, earnings were 58.9 percent of TPI (compared with 69.2 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 6.4 percent (compared with 5.8 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 34.7 percent (compared with 25.1 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 3.6 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 6.3 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 8.7 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Leslie increased from $37,545 in 1982 to $102,020 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 10.5 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were mining, which accounted for 56.7 percent of earnings; state and local government, 14.1 percent; and services, 11.8 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were mining, with 33.1 percent of earnings; state and local government, 18.6 percent; and services, 17.2 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was retail trade (6.0 percent of earnings in 1992), which increased at an average annual rate of 3.9 percent; the fastest was mining, which increased at an average annual rate of 16.6 percent.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

LETCHER COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 27,000, ranked 36th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Letcher had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,106. This PCPI ranked 94th in the state, and was 73 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 60 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Letcher's PCPI of $6,730 ranked 96th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 6.0 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Letcher had a total personal income (TPI) of $327,383. This TPI ranked 41st in the state and accounted for 0.5 percent of the state total. In 1982, Letcher's TPI of $204,827 ranked 41st in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 4.8 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by the residents of Letcher. In 1992, earnings were 55.0 percent of TPI (compared with 58.3 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 9.4 percent (compared with 12.1 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 35.7 percent (compared with 29.5 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 4.2 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 2.1 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 6.8 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Letcher increased from $108,019 in 1982 to $166,561 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 4.4 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were mining, which accounted for 29.8 percent of earnings; services, 21.9 percent; and state and local government, 16.6 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were mining, with 49.6 percent of earnings; services, 14.7 percent; and state and local government, 10.5 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was mining, which declined at an average annual rate of 0.7 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 9.3 percent.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

OWSLEY COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 5,200, ranked 118th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Owsley had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $9,466. This PCPI ranked 120th in the state, and was 57 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 47 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Owsley's PCPI of $4,978 ranked 119th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 6.6 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Owsley had a total personal income (TPI) of $49,186. This TPI ranked 119th in the state and accounted for 0.1 percent of the state total. In 1982, Owsley's TPI of $27,822 ranked 118th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 5.9 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by the residents of Owsley. In 1992, earnings were 36.8 percent of TPI (compared with 48.0 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 10.1 percent (compared with 8.3 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 53.1 percent (compared with 43.7 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 3.1 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 8.0 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 7.9 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Owsley increased from $10,644 in 1982 to $14,773 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 3.3 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were state and local government, which accounted for 39.8 percent of earnings; services, 17.2 percent; and farm, 11.4 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were farm, with 27.6 percent of earnings; state and local government, 20.9 percent; and services, 15.1 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was farm, which declined at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent; the fastest was construction (5.4 percent of earnings in 1992), which increased at an average annual rate of 13.1 percent.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

PERRY COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 31,100, ranked 30th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Perry had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $13,515. This PCPI ranked 66th in the state, and was 82 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 67 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Perry's PCPI of $10,303 ranked 12th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 2.8 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Perry had a total personal income (TPI) of $419,682. This TPI ranked 36th in the state and accounted for 0.7 percent of the state total. In 1982, Perry's TPI of $345,345 ranked 21st in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 2.0 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by the residents of Perry. In 1992, earnings were 56.2 percent of TPI (compared with 73.1 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 12.2 percent (compared with 8.0 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 31.7 percent (compared with 18.9 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings declined on average 0.7 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 6.3 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 7.3 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Perry increased from $309,057 in 1982 to $329,893 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 0.7 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were mining, which accounted for 32.0 percent of earnings; services, 20.4 percent; and state and local government, 14.2 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were mining, with 62.7 percent of earnings; services, 9.2 percent; and transportation and public utilities, 7.4 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was mining, which declined at an average annual rate of 5.9 percent; the fastest was wholesale trade (5.7 percent of earnings in 1992), which increased at an average annual rate of 10.1 percent.

APPENDIX A: "Bearfacts" about Kentucky and KRADD Counties, 1982-1992, Cont'd.

WOLFE COUNTY

In 1992, its population was 6,900, ranked 110th.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Wolfe had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $10,946. This PCPI ranked 108th in the state, and was 66 percent of the state average ($16,528) and 54 percent of the national average ($20,105). In 1982, Wolfe's PCPI of $6,270 ranked 104th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 5.7 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.8 percent and for the nation was 5.7 percent.

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1992, Wolfe had a total personal income (TPI) of $75,922. This TPI ranked 116th in the state and accounted for 0.1 percent of the state total. In 1982, Wolfe's TPI of $42,439 ranked 115th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 6.0 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.0 percent and for the nation was 6.7 percent.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors' income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by the residents of Wolfe. In 1992, earnings were 45.2 percent of TPI (compared with 59.2 percent in 1982); dividends, interest, and rent were 9.7 percent (compared with 10.4 percent in 1982); and transfer payments were 45.1 percent (compared with 30.4 percent in 1982). From 1982 to 1992, earnings increased on average 3.2 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent increased on average 5.2 percent; and transfer payments increased on average 10.2 percent.

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Wolfe increased from $19,548 in 1982 to $28,400 in 1992, an average annual growth rate of 3.8 percent. The largest industries in 1992 were state and local government, which accounted for 27.4 percent of earnings; services, 17.1 percent; and retail trade, 15.0 percent. In 1982, the largest industries were durable goods manufacturing, with approximately 20 percent of earnings; state and local government, 17.6 percent; and farm, 16.5 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1992, the slowest growing from 1982 to 1992 was durable goods manufacturing (approximately 10 percent of earnings in 1992), which declined at an average annual rate of approximately 10 percent; the fastest was non-durable goods manufacturing (approximately 10 percent of earnings in 1992), which increased at an average annual rate of approximately 80 percent.

SOURCE: Regional Economic Information System
Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by University of Kentucky
Appalachian Center

APPENDIX B: "Indicator Trends" for the Condition of Children.

County/Indicator	Base Year	Recent Data (Year)	Rank in State
Breathitt			
% Children in Poverty	41.0 (1979)	46.4 (1989)	113
% Children in Single-parent Families	12.8 (1980)	19.3 (1990)	103
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	12.2 (1980-82)	17.6 (1990-92)	118
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	60.6 (1980-82)	69.8 (1990-92)	102
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	34.0 (1980-82)	27.1 (1990-92)	105
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	52.9 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	72.2	62
Knott			
% Children in Poverty	36.2 (1979)	49.2 (1989)	116
% Children in Single-parent Families	10.4 (1980)	17.0 (1990)	76
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	15.6 (1980-82)	15.7 (1990-92)	115
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	63.6 (1980-82)	83.3 (1990-92)	18
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	33.0 (1980-82)	20.0 (1990-92)	59
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	54.5 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	68.3	81

APPENDIX B: "Indicator Trends" for the Condition of Children, Cont'd.

County/Indicator	Base Year	Recent Data (Year)	Rank in State
Lee			
% Children in Poverty	41.5 (1979)	45.8 (1989)	111
% Children in Single-parent Families	14.3 (1980)	20.3 (1990)	108
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	21.0 (1980-82)	7.6 (1990-92)	53
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	64.0 (1980-82)	68.8 (1990-92)	107
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	30.0 (1980-82)	17.3 (1990-92)	37
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	60.9 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	55.4	115
Leslie			
% Children in Poverty	38.6 (1979)	41.2 (1989)	101
% Children in Single-parent Families	11.1 (1980)	17.3 (1990)	81
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	12.2 (1980-82)	10.4 (1990-92)	89
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	54.9 (1980-82)	76.1 (1990-92)	67
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	37.0 (1980-82)	23.9 (1990-92)	88
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	57.5 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	70.8	70

APPENDIX B: "Indicator Trends" for the Condition of Children, Cont'd.

County/Indicator	Base Year	Recent Data (Year)	Rank in State
Letcher			
% Children in Poverty	34.3 (1979)	36.4 (1989)	93
% Children in Single-parent Families	10.4 (1980)	15.2 (1990)	43
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	13.7 (1980-82)	12.8 (1990-92)	105
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	73.9 (1980-82)	86.5 (1990-92)	6
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	31.0 (1980-82)	23.8 (1990-92)	86
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	52.2 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	69.1	76
Owsley			
% Children in Poverty	57.6 (1979)	63.8 (1989)	120
% Children in Single-parent Families	10.1 (1980)	20.6 (1990)	110
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	8.4 (1980-82)	10.2 (1990-92)	86
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	53.6 (1980-82)	68.9 (1990-92)	106
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	37.0 (1980-82)	29.9 (1990-92)	114
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	55.2 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	61.7	105

APPENDIX B: "Indicator Trends" for the Condition of Children, Cont'd.

County/Indicator	Base Year	Recent Data (Year)	Rank in State
Perry			
% Children in Poverty	27.4 (1979)	39.0 (1989)	98
% Children in Single-parent Families	9.9 (1980)	15.2 (1990)	43
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	15.1 (1980-82)	4.7 (1990-92)	24
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	69.7 (1980-82)	82.3 (1990-92)	22
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	34.0 (1980-82)	25.2 (1990-92)	92
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	50.1 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	62.3	104
Wolfe			
% Children in Poverty	38.4 (1979)	54.2 (1989)	118
% Children in Single-parent Families	14.9 (1980)	21.4 (1990)	114
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths < 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	17.6 (1980-82)	12.9 (1990-92)	107
% of Births with Early Prenatal Care	54.3 (1980-82)	66.0 (1990-92)	118
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females 12-17 years)	46.0 (1980-82)	30.0 (1990-92)	116
% Graduating from High School (1979/80 - 1981/82)	58.2 (1989/90 - 1991/92)	59.2	111

SOURCE: Kentucky Kids Count Consortium, 1994, Prepared by UK Appalachian Center

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